# CITY HILIGHTS

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# The reel is over, but light remains...

## Bollywood's eternal hero who loved like poet, lived like legend for over six decades

**MUMBAI**

Veteran actor Dharmendra, fondly known as Hindi cinema's original 'He-Man' and 'Dharam Paaji, passed away at his Mumbai home on November 24. He was 89.

His last rites were held at the Pawan Hans crematorium in Mumbai, where members of the film fraternity and family have gathered to pay their final respects.

The legendary star, widely regarded as one of Indian cinema's greatest and most commercially successful actors, had been under medical care at Breach Candy Hospital in Mumbai in recent weeks. He died 12 days after he was discharged from the hospital where he was admitted late October after he complained of breathlessness. He would have turned 90 on December 8.

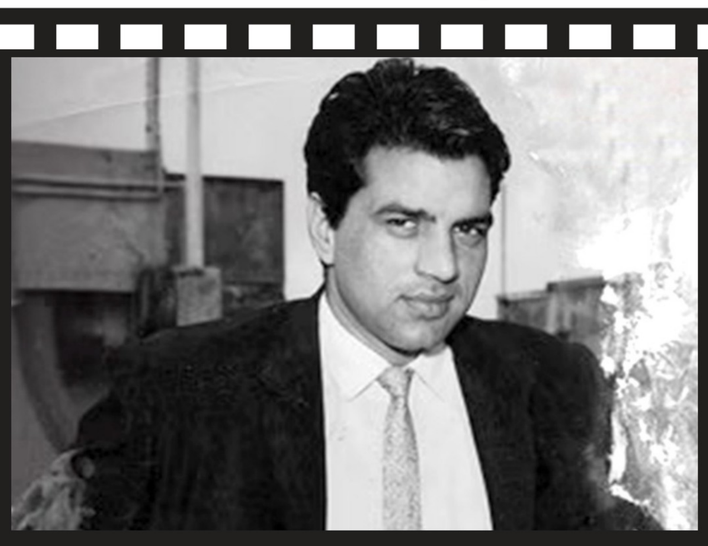
Dharmendra's cinematic career spanned over six decades, with appearances in more than 300 films, earning him the record for the highest number of hit films in Hindi cinema.

He made his debut in 1960 with Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere, started out his career playing common man roles in the 1960s in films such as Anpadh and Bandini. He gained popularity in the mid-1960s with hits like Phool Aur Patthar and Aaye Din Bahar Ke.

The 1970s and 1980s cemented his stardom with iconic films, including Sholay, Dharam Veer, Chupke Chupke, Seeta Aur Geeta, Mera Gaon Mera Desh, Hukumat, and Dream Girl.

In later years, he took on memorable character roles in films such as Apne, Johnny Gaddaar and Yamla Pagla Deewana. Dharmendra was last seen in Teri Baaton Mein Aisa Uljha Jiya (2024), starring Shahid Kapoor and Kriti Sanon.

Dharmendra was set to star in 'Ikkis', a war drama directed by Sriram Raghavan, based on Param Vir Chakra recipient Arun Khetarpal.



**DHARMENDRA 1935-2025**

His next cinematic appearance is Ikkis, a war drama directed by Sriram Raghavan, based on Param Vir Chakra recipient Arun Khetarpal, and fronted by Amitabh Bachchan's grandson Agastya Nanda. In an emotional coincidence, the makers of his upcoming film 'Ikkis' released a poster featuring Dharmendra earlier today. The film is scheduled for a December 25 theatrical release and now stands as one of his final on-screen appearances.

Honoured with the Padma Bhushan in 2012, Dharmendra's legacy as a legendary actor, style icon, and enduring presence in Indian cinema remains unparalleled.

The actor is survived by his first wife Prakash Kaur, second wife Hema Malini, and six children, including sons Sunny and Bobby and daughters Vijeta and Ajeita from his first marriage, and Esha and Ahana from his second marriage.

*More on page 12*

**The passing of Dharmendra Ji marks the end of an era in Indian cinema. He was an iconic film personality, a phenomenal actor who brought charm and depth to every role he played. The manner in which he played diverse roles struck a chord with countless people. Dharmendra Ji was equally admired for his simplicity, humility and warmth. In this sad hour, my thoughts are with his family, friends and innumerable fans. Om Shanti.**

—Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

**The passing of Dharmendra ji, who touched the hearts of every citizen for six decades with his finest acting, is an irreplaceable loss for the Indian film world. Coming from an ordinary family, he carved an indelible identity for himself in the film industry.**

—Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

**The news of the demise of the great actor Dharmendra ji is extremely heartbreaking and an irreparable loss for the Indian art world. His unparalleled contribution to cinema over nearly seven decades will always be remembered with respect and love.**

—Rahul Gandhi, Congress MP

# Will stay CM if party decides: Siddu amid power tussle

**BENGALURU**

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said he would continue as chief minister if the Congress high command desires so, amid hectic behind the scenes jostling by Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to replace him.

Any decision on a leadership change rests entirely with the party's central leadership, he said, adding that both he and the Deputy CM are expected to abide by whatever decision is ultimately made.

Political activities and lobbying gained pace soon after the Karnataka Congress regime crossed its halfway mark of five-year term on November 20, with a group of MLAs loyal to DK Shivakumar pressing for his anointment as the chief minister with the AICC leaders in Delhi.

"The high command will decide. If they decide that I must continue, then I will. Ultimately, when the party high command decides, DK Shivakumar and I, both will have to listen," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Chikkaballapur district near Bengaluru.

He further said the party leadership asked him to reshuffle his Cabinet when he met the leaders in Delhi five months ago. But, he told them he would do it after the government completes the two and a half years of its term.

As Shivakumar continues his efforts to stake his claim, Siddaramaiah is reportedly pursuing his plans to take up a Cabinet reshuffle, triggering panic among ministers and giving hopes to MLAs.

Meanwhile, a new section of Congress legislators backing Shivakumar has flown to New Delhi to meet the party high command, intensifying the ongoing tussle over a possible change of guard.

According to party sources, at least six MLAs, KM Uday (Maddur), Nayana Motamma (Mudigere), HC Balakrishna (Magadi), Iqbal Hussain (Ramanagara), Sharath Bachegowda (Hosakote) and Shivaganga Basavaraj (Channagiri), have reached the capital on Sunday night. More are expected to fly amid the pro-Shivakumar camp pushing hard for CM change.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge, whoc is currently in Bengaluru, is set to leave for Delhi, and Rahul Gandhi, who is on a foreign tour, is expected to return in a day or two.

*More on page 5*

# Indian woman's 18-hr ordeal at Shanghai airport

**ITANAGAR**

A woman from Arunachal Pradesh was allegedly harrassed and detained at China's Shanghai airport for "eighteen hours" after the authorities refused to recognise her indian passport as valid, claiming that the region "is part of China."

According to the woman, Pem Wang Thongdok, she was at the Shanghai airport for a three-hour transit halt while travelling from London to Japan on November 21. She accused the Chinese authorities of refusing to recognise her Indian passport as valid during a transit halt. In a series of posts on the microblogging site X, she said immigration officials at the airport detained her for "eighteen hours" on November 21, claiming her passport was "invalid" as her birthplace, Arunachal Pradesh, was "part of China".

Thongdok said she couldn't get in touch with her family for a very long time.

# Kant swron in as 53rd CJI

**NEW DELHI**

Justice Surya Kant took oath as the 53rd Chief Justice of India (CJI) on Monday, succeeding Justice BR Gavai, and marking the beginning of his nearly 15th month tenure.

President Murmu administered the oath of office to Justice Kant at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday.

Justice Kant was born on February 10, 1962 in Hisar, Haryana. He studied law at Maharshi Dayanand University in Rohtak and began practising in the Punjab and Haryana High Court in 1985. Over time, he served as Advocate General of Haryana, and in 2001, he was designated a Senior Advocate at the age of 39.

In 2004, he was appointed a judge of the Punjab & Haryana High Court. Later he became the Chief Justice of the Himachal Pradesh High Court on 3 October 2018.The move stirred some controversy, because Justice AK Goel had reportedly disagreed with the Collegium's decision. Despite this, the Collegium proceeded, citing the importance of balanced representation from different high courts.

In 2019, he was elevated to the Supreme Court, with the Collegium emphasising that his appointment would help ensure that all high courts are adequately represented at the highest level.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, were among the dignitaries in attendance at the oath taking ceremony.

**QUICK READ**

### 10,000-year-old Volcano burst in Ethiopia grounds flights

**NEW DELHI:** A scheduled flight by the operator IndiGo from Kannur to Abu Dhabi was diverted to Ahmedabad on Monday evening after a major volcanic eruption in Ethiopia disrupted regional air corridors. Airline sources said that with ash cloud conditions persisting, the decision was taken to cancel the flight. All passengers were provided with refreshments, and IndiGo is arranging an alternate flight to return them to Kannur, the boarding point. The volcano, Hayli Gubbi Volcano, located in Ethiopia's Erta Ale range, erupted for the first time in nearly 10,000 years, sending volcanic ash and sulphur dioxide high into the atmosphere at altitudes used by commercial flights.

**SACRED RITUAL**

# *Ayodhya all set for Ram Temple 'Dhwajarohan'*

**AYODHYA**

Ayodhya, the historic city of Uttar Pradesh which is revered as the birthplace of Lord Rama, is all set for the grand 'Dharam Dhwaj' ceremony of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple. On November 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Ayodhya and will hoist the saffron flag on the top of the Ram Temple, marking the completion of the temple. He will be accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat.

Thousands of people from various corners across the country are flocking in large numbers to witness the gala event.

In the run-up to the grand flag-hoisting ceremony, Ayodhya is being transformed with extensive floral décor. Nearly 100 tonnes of flowers have been used to adorn the temple complex and its surroundings, creating a vibrant setting for the sacred ceremony.

PM to hoist flag at 12 noon

The Prime Minister will hoist the flag at 12 pm today. Prior to that, Modi will visit the Saptmandir, which houses temples related to Maharshi Vashishtha, Maharshi Vishwamitra, Maharshi Agastya, Maharshi Valmiki, Devi Ahilya, Nishadraj Guha and Mata Shabari, at 10 am. This will be followed by a visit to Sheshavtar Mandir. An hour later, the PM will visit the Mata Annapurna Mandir and offer prayers at the Ram Darbar Garbh Grah. He will also offer his prayers to the idol of Lord Rama, and after all this, he will hoist the triangular flag atop the Ram Temple.

"On November 25, 2025, the name of Shri Ayodhya Dham will once again be inscribed in golden letters on the pages of history," Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath stated on the UP government website.


KIADB

Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)

E-AUCTION NOTIFICATION

Residential Houses

| Sl. No | House Details | No of Units | Plot size in mtr. | Builtup Area in Sq,mtr |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | LIG | 50 | 9.14 x 12.19 | 99.86 |
| 2 | MIG | 20 | 9.14 x 15.24 | 78.95 |
| 3 | HIG | 37 | 12.19 x 18.29 | 52.20 |
| Total | | 107 | | |

Residential Sites

| Sl. No | Plots Details | No of Plots | Plot size in mtr. |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | EWS | 27 | 6.10 x 9.14 |
| 2 | LIG | 130 | 9.14 x 12.19 |
| 3 | MIG | 47 | 9.14 x 15.24 |
| 4 | HIG | 13 | 12.19 x 18.29 |
| 5 | ODD | 3 | |
| Total | | 220 | |

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Email : dotumakuru@kiadb.in
Website: www.kiadb.in
Contact Details: 9663311797/8105575100

For Registration and Bidding Please Visit e-procurement Portal: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

## QUICK READ

### MLA Gururaj to Hold Model Forest Adalat

**Byndoor**

In a bid to expedite pending development projects, MLA Gururaj Gantihole has announced plans to hold a model Forest Adalat in the area. The Adalat aims to address issues related to forest and revenue clearances, which often get stalled due to lack of information. Speaking after a meeting with officials from the forest, revenue, and other departments, Gururaj said that despite opportunities to obtain no-objection certificates for development projects, many initiatives get delayed due to inadequate information. The Adalat will provide a platform for resolving these issues. The MLA also reviewed the progress of the National Highway 766C land acquisition process, stating that compensation has been provided to 419 individuals, and efforts are underway to settle the remaining 88 cases. Kundapur Sub-Divisional Officer Rashmi and Land Records Deputy Director Ravindra were present.

### Iron Rods Fall from Lorry, Prompting Police to Impose Fine on Driver

**Bantwal**

In a swift response to a viral video, traffic police in Bantwal have fined the driver of a goods vehicle after iron rods it was carrying fell onto the road near Bolanturu Cross on the Kalladka-Vittla road. The incident occurred when the vehicle was transporting scaffolding tubes from Bolanturu towards Kalladka. As it climbed an incline, a portion of the rods, which were not properly secured, suddenly spilled onto the road. The incident was captured on a dashboard camera of a vehicle travelling behind and was later shared on social media. Based on the footage, police identified the vehicle and imposed a fine on the driver. The police have warned drivers to exercise caution while transporting heavy materials, emphasizing the importance of securing loads properly to prevent accidents and ensure road safety.

### Kasaragod Conference to hold Protest against Injustice to Kannadigas

**Kasaragod**

The Vatal Paksha party, led by its president Vatal Nagaraj, has announced plans to hold a Kasaragod Conference in Bengaluru during the second week of December to protest the alleged injustice faced by Kannadigas in the district. Nagaraj alleged that there is a conspiracy to Malayalamize Kasargod and claimed that the conference aims to highlight the issues faced by Kannadigas in the region. The party has also announced plans to organize a protest and Satyagraha on the Mangalore-Kasaragod highway during the third week of December. The move comes amid growing concerns about the marginalization of Kannadigas in Kasaragod, with allegations of neglect and discrimination by the Kerala government. The conference is expected to draw attention to these issues and push for greater recognition and rights for Kannadigas in the region.

# Indrani River Turns into a Toxic Drain, Placing Residents at Risk

The lack of proper drainage and sewage systems in Udupi city has exacerbated the problem, with many households and businesses releasing untreated waste into the river

**UDUPI**

The Indrani River, which flows through the heart of Udupi city, has become a dumping ground for waste, emitting a foul odor and posing a threat to public health. Despite being a vital waterbody, the river is being polluted with plastic waste and toxic effluents from nearby households and commercial establishments.

Residents living near the river complain that people dump waste into the river under the cover of darkness, attracting stray animals and creating an unhygienic environment. The pollution has become so severe that even the river's water is unfit for use, with locals warning that touching it can lead to diseases.

The lack of proper drainage and sewage systems in Udupi city has exacerbated the problem, with many households and businesses releasing untreated waste into the river. The situation worsens during the dry season, when the river's water level drops, leaving behind a trail of pollution.

Locals are demanding that authorities take strict action against those responsible for polluting the river and implement measures to restore its purity. "The Indhrani River is a sacred waterbody that needs to be protected," says Prof. Kokkarne Surendranath Shetty, a resident of Indhrani. "The civic body and district administration must take responsibility for its cleanliness and ensure that those polluting it are brought to book."

The Udupi Municipal Corporation has initiated efforts to address the issue, including the appointment of community mobilizers to raise awareness about cleanliness and the installation of CCTV cameras to monitor waste dumping. However, residents are skeptical about the effectiveness of these measures and demand more concrete action to restore the river's health.

The pollution of the Indhrani River is not only an environmental concern but also a public health issue, with many residents complaining of waterborne diseases. It is imperative that authorities take immediate action to address this crisis and protect the city's water resources.

# Roads Remain in Shambles, Civic Body Snoozes Despite End of Rains

**PUTTUR**

**Although it has been 15 days since the rains stopped, the main roads and connecting streets within the municipal limits remain unrepaired**

Despite the end of the monsoon season, the roads in Puttur city remain in a deplorable state, with potholes and craters causing hardship to commuters. The civic body, which had earlier cited rains as the reason for the poor road conditions, seems to have gone back to sleep.

Although it has been 15 days since the rains stopped, the main roads and connecting streets within the municipal limits remain unrepaired. The Puttur-Uppinangady four-lane road is the only one that is nearing completion, while other roads continue to be in a sorry state.

The seven-month-long monsoon season has taken a toll on the city's infrastructure, with roads developing deep potholes and cracks. Despite repeated pleas from residents, the civic body has failed to take concrete steps to repair the roads. The usual response is that repairs will be undertaken once the rains subside.

Now that the rains have stopped, commuters are still struggling with the poor road conditions, especially two-wheeler riders and auto-rickshaw drivers. The civic body's apathy is evident, with no signs of efforts to repair the roads.

The situation is so bad that even the ruling BJP and opposition Congress are maintaining a deafening silence on the issue. No organization or individual is raising their voice against the civic body's inaction. The lack of opposition is surprising, given that the roads are a critical issue affecting daily life.

The civic body's inaction is all the more glaring when compared to the efforts being made to repair state highways. The authorities seem to be turning a blind eye to the plight of commuters, who are left to fiddle with the potholes and craters on the roads.

It is imperative that the civic body wakes up from its slumber and takes immediate steps to repair the roads. The authorities must shed their apathy and work towards providing better infrastructure for the people.

## BJP's Promise Unkept, Arun Kumar Puthila Snubs Party Again

**PUTTUR**

The simmering discontent within the BJP over unfulfilled promises has resurfaced, with Arun Kumar Puthila, a prominent leader from the Puthila family, snubbing the party's recent event. The event, attended by state BJP president VY Vijayendra, saw a noticeable absence of Puthila and his family members, signaling their growing discontent.

The roots of the problem date back to the 2023 assembly elections when Puthila was denied a ticket. He rebelled against the party and contested as an independent, inadvertently helping Congress candidate Ashok Rai win the seat. This led to a rift between Puthila and the BJP, which was later patched up, and he was brought back into the party fold.

However, Puthila's grievances have resurfaced, with allegations that the party had promised him the post of state BJP vice-president when he rejoined. The failure to deliver on this promise has led to renewed tensions, with Puthila reportedly considering another rebellion.

The development has sent shockwaves within the party, particularly in the Puthila stronghold of Puthur, which is considered a Hindu stronghold and a key constituency for the BJP. Social media posts from the Puthila family and supporters hint at a possible rebellion in the upcoming assembly elections, spelling trouble for the BJP.

As the party struggles to contain the fallout, questions are being raised about its ability to manage internal dissent and keep its leaders happy. With the next elections still two and a half years away, the BJP will need to act quickly to stem the rot and prevent further damage.

## 25-Year Wait Ends: Shibara Residents Get Road Connectivity

**PUTTUR**

After a grueling 25-year wait, the residents of Alang Shibara and Nadual in Narimogaru village have finally got road connectivity. The area, home to over 25 families, had been struggling with the lack of a proper road, making it difficult for vehicles to reach their doorsteps and causing anxiety during medical emergencies.

The breakthrough came when local MLA Ashok Rai intervened and convinced the private landowners to donate land for the road construction. The landowners, Balachandra and Kishore, graciously agreed to part with their land, paving the way for the project.

Speaking on the occasion, Ashok Rai said, "The local Congress leaders brought this issue to my attention, and I took it up with the landowners. We have finally succeeded in resolving the issue, and I am happy to announce that I will be providing Rs 5 lakh for the road construction."

Kishore, one of the landowners, said, "We have donated land for the road, and we are happy that the residents of Shibara will no longer have to face difficulties."

Narimogaru Panchayat Congress President Honnappa Kaindaadi said, "We had promised the people that we would get the road constructed if Ashok Rai won the election. We have kept our word, and the MLA has delivered on his promise."

The function was attended by Puttur Block Congress President Krishna Prasad Alva, party leaders Babu Shetty Narimogaru, Ravindra Rai Nekkiulu, Raghavendra Prabhu, Chennappa Gowda, Manjunath Shekh, and Harinakshi, President of the Women's Wing.

## Kambala Association Meeting Discusses Key Reforms

**MOODABIDRI**

A crucial meeting of the State Kambala Association was held on Wednesday evening, focusing on key reforms to improve the traditional buffalo racing event. The meeting, attended by association officials, district committee members, event organizers, and buffalo owners, aimed to address issues plating the sport.

Key decisions were made to reduce the number of judges and appoint them according to a routine schedule. Additionally, it was decided to put an end to unnecessary movement of buffalo releasers in the racing area and enforce strict time management when releasing the buffaloes.

Association president Belpu Deviprosad Shetty emphasized the growing popularity of Kambala, thanks to state government recognition. He also mentioned efforts to secure national recognition for the sport and plans to submit a request to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Udupi.

The meeting highlighted the need for judges to adhere to time limits, as delays in releasing buffaloes often lead to events spilling over into the next day, attracting legal scrutiny. Kambala Discipline Committee chairman Bhaskar Kotian suggested reducing the number of judges from 24, citing the need to control costs.

The association also decided to distribute government grants equally among all Kambala events. Notable buffalo owners Bhaskar Kotian and Shantharam Shetty were felicitated at the meeting, which was attended by association officials, including P.R. Shetty, treasurer Mucchuru Lokesh Shetty, Vijay Kumar Kangin Mane, and Chandrahas Sanil.

# Chinnaiah Granted Bail in Dharmasthala Case; SIT Report Alleging False Claims Under Court Review

**BELTHANGADY (DAKSHINA KANNADA DISTRICT)**

The Belthangady court has granted bail to C.N. Chinnaiah, the complainant and key witness in the controversial Dharmasthala burial case, even as the Special Investigation Team (SIT) has submitted a detailed report recommending prosecution for perjury based on alleged inconsistencies in his statements.

Chinnaiah, a former sanitation worker who served in Dharmasthala, had filed a sensational complaint alleging that dozens of unidentified bodies — including those of women and minors — had been secretly buried in the pilgrimage town between 1995 and 2014. His petition triggered one of the most talked-about investigations in the district, leading to the formation of a special team to verify the claims.

The SIT, after several months of investigation, stated that many of the allegations could not be substantiated and that Chinnaiah's versions had changed over time. The team concluded that his statements could constitute intentional misleading of investigators and recommended legal action under Section 215 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which deals with providing false evidence.

Chinnaiah was arrested on August 23 and initially remanded to SIT custody before being sent to judicial custody. His earlier applications for bail had been rejected due to the gravity of the charges and the ongoing inquiry. With bail now granted, the court has imposed restrictions on his movement and communication until further proceedings.

Meanwhile, the case remains under active investigation. Thirteen sites named by Chinnaiah were examined, with forensic teams recovering human remains from two locations while the rest yielded no conclusive findings. The SIT has stated that further scientific and legal processes will determine the course of the case.

The Dharmasthala investigation continues to generate public interest in Dakshina Kannada, with residents awaiting clarity from the ongoing forensic and legal evaluations, particularly after it has taken political and communal angle.

## Four, Including Bank Managers, Held for ₹46.5 Lakh Online Scam in Honnavar

**KARWAR**

The Cyber Economic Offences (CEN) police in North Kannada have busted an interstate gang involved in an online scam, arresting four individuals, including three bank relationship managers, for duping an entrepreneur in Honnavar of ₹46.5 lakh.

The accused had lured the victim, Girish (35), a resident of Prabhat Nagar, Honnavar, with promises of high returns on investments through a Forex trading app, 'MarketAxess', advertised on Facebook. Between May 28 and July 23, 2025, the accused convinced Girish to invest ₹46,50,000 in several tranches. However, when he tried to withdraw ₹75,00,000, he realized he had been cheated and lodged a complaint with the CEN police.

The police investigation, led by CEN DYSP B. Ashwini, revealed that the accused, including M.D. Alam, Bille Praveen Kumar (35), and Vinay Kumar (30), were relationship managers at RBL Bank and had opened accounts to facilitate the scam. The fourth accused, Shamim Akhtar (55), a native of Bihar, was arrested in Bengaluru for his role in lenticularing the victim.

## *30 Injured in Kasargod Concert Stampede*

**KASARAGOD**

A stampede-like situation broke out at a Malayalam singer Hanan Shah's concert in Kasargod on Sunday night, leaving 30 people injured. The incident occurred at the Expo event near the new bus stand, where a large crowd had gathered to attend the concert.

Police have registered a case against five organizers of the event, alleging that they had failed to ensure adequate security and crowd control measures. The district police chief arrived at the scene and ordered the event to be stopped, and the crowd was dispersed using lathicharge.

According to officials, timely intervention by the police prevented a major disaster. Many people were injured in the stampede, and around 10 people were taken to a local hospital for treatment. Some of them were later shifted to other hospitals for further treatment, but their condition is reported to be stable.

The incident occurred around 9 pm when a large crowd suddenly gathered at the venue, despite warnings from the organizers and police to disperse. The concert was stopped midway, and the police had to resort to lathicharge to control the crowd.

Local media reports showed videos of people arguing with police, alleging that they had been denied entry despite having tickets. The organizers claimed that they had warned the authorities about the large crowd, but their concerns were ignored.

The FIR registered by the police alleges that the organizers had ignored warnings about the venue's capacity and had sold tickets at inflated prices, with some tickets being sold for ₹100. The police had initially permitted a gathering of 5,000 people, but later reduced it to 3,000 after inspecting the venue. However, the organizers allegedly sold over 10,000 tickets, flouting the police directive.

The police have promised to take strict action against those responsible for the incident. The case has been registered against the organisers — Shahzaman Thottan, Nawalu Rahiman, Haris Aboobeckar, Khalid ED, Jubair and other identifiable members of the event committee — under various provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Kerala Police Act.

## QUICK READ

### Last-Minute Flight Cancellation Sparks Chaos at MIA

**Mangaluru**

Passengers traveling from Mangaluru to Dammam faced a nightmare on November 22 night when Air India Express abruptly canceled their flight at the eleventh hour. The flight, originally scheduled to depart at 11:10 pm, was rescheduled twice - first to 11:45 pm and then to 1:40 am - before being canceled altogether. The stranded passengers alleged that they received no assistance from the airline staff, with no drinking water, food, or proper guidance provided. "We were left stranded like refugees," one passenger complained. The incident has raised concerns over Air India Express's contingency planning and customer service protocols, with many calling for better support for affected passengers.

### St. Aloysius Student Shines in State-Level Athletics Meet

**Mangaluru**

Jane Jerusha Pinto, an 8th standard student of St. Aloysius English Medium School, Mangalore, has won first place in shot put and discus throw at the state-level athletics meet held in Hassan. She has been selected to represent Karnataka at the national-level sports meet in Madhya Pradesh. The school management and staff congratulated Jane on her achievement. School director Benjamin Pinto, headmaster Aloysius D'Souza, physical education teachers Pramod and Sudhakar, and Harinakshi wished her the best for the upcoming national-level competition.

### 'Humanity is the only religion, rest are just beliefs'

**Mangaluru**

Retired professor Dr. Shikharipura Krishnamurthy emphasized the importance of understanding the difference between religion and beliefs, stating that humanity is the only true religion. He was speaking at a harmony meet organized by Sadbhavana Vedike Jappu Vartula at Kasia Church Hall here. Dr. Krishnamurthy urged people to promote harmony and goodwill among humans, and avoid conflicts and hatred in the name of religion and beliefs.

### Children's Day Celebrations at Shakti Residency School

**Mangaluru**

Shakti Residency School celebrated Children's Day with great enthusiasm at the Reshma Memorial Hall. The event began with the lighting of a lamp and a floral tribute to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's portrait. Speaking on the occasion, Principal Babita Suraj emphasized the importance of instilling values and nurturing interests in children from a young age. She encouraged students to develop strong roots and wings to grow into confident individuals. The event was attended by teachers and students, who participated in various activities and discussions. Teacher Vidya Lakshmi welcomed the guests, while Maria proposed a vote of thanks. Nayan, another teacher, spoke about the significance of Children's Day.

# City to Get Paid Parking Facilities to Curb Haphazard Vehicle Parking

According to officials, the proposed paid parking facilities will be implemented in phases, with three locations already operational, including Lalbagh

**MANGALURU**

In a bid to tackle the growing problem of haphazard vehicle parking in Mangalore city, the municipal corporation is set to introduce paid parking facilities at 13 locations.

The decision comes as a response to the increasing traffic congestion and lack of designated parking areas, leading to vehicles being parked on roadsides and inner streets, causing inconvenience to residents and pedestrians.

According to officials, the proposed paid parking facilities will be implemented in phases, with three locations already operational, including Lalbagh, Light House Hill, and Hampankatta. The corporation has identified 10 more locations for the facility, and the tender process is expected to be completed soon.

The proposed parking charges are ₹7 per hour for two-wheelers and ₹15 per hour for four-wheelers, with additional charges for extended parking periods. The corporation expects to generate an annual revenue of ₹1.25 crore from the paid parking facilities.

**Slow Progress on Multi-Level Car Parking Plaza**

Meanwhile, the construction of a multi-level car parking plaza at Hampankatta, which was expected to be completed by 2024, is facing delays. The ₹79.05 crore project, being implemented by Smart City, is currently progressing at a slow pace, with only the foundation work completed. Locals have expressed frustration over the delay, citing loss of business and inconvenience. The Smart City officials have assured that the project will be completed by September 2026, and the parking plaza will provide relief to the city's parking woes.

**Need for Effective Implementation**

The introduction of paid parking facilities is a welcome move, but it remains to be seen how effectively it will be implemented. The corporation must ensure that the facilities are well-maintained, and the parking charges are reasonable and transparent.

Additionally, the corporation should also focus on creating awareness among citizens about the importance of parking in designated areas and the benefits of using paid parking facilities. With effective implementation and public cooperation, Mangalore can hope to reduce traffic congestion and make the city more livable.

# DK to Get Dedicated Elephant Task Force to Tackle Rising Human-Elephant Conflicts

**MANGALURU**

**The ETF will operate from Sullia and Gundya as key centers, with a central unit comprising a Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), an Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), and a Range Forest Officer (RFO)**

The State Government is set to finalize the establishment of a dedicated Elephant Task Force (ETF) for Dakshina Kannada district, aiming to mitigate the increasing human-elephant conflicts in the region. The proposal has already received cabinet approval and is awaiting final clearance from the Finance Department before the upcoming Legislative Assembly session.

The ETF will operate from Sullia and Gundya as key centers, with a central unit comprising a Deputy Conservator of Forests (DCF), an Assistant Conservator of Forests (ACF), and a Range Forest Officer (RFO). The task force will have 2 Deputy Range Forest Officers, 2 Forest Guards, and 16 outsourced watchers, along with a fully equipped 4x4 vehicle.

**WHY THE ETF IS NECESSARY**

- The region's forest department estimates around 71 elephants in the Mangaluru division, with frequent movements across Sullia, Subrahmanya, Panje, Belthangady, Uppinangady, and Puttur ranges. The lack of trained field personnel has led to delays in driving elephants back into the forest, exacerbating conflicts.

**KEY CHALLENGES**

- The Mangaluru Forest Division has 144 "enclosures," small settlements surrounded by forest, which often intersect elephant corridors.
- National Highways such as NH-73, NH-75, and NH-273 pass through dense forests, serving as natural elephant routes.
- Road-widening projects, forest fires, and construction activities are pushing elephants into new regions.

**GOVERNMENT'S INITIATIVES**

- Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre emphasized the need for the ETF, stating, "We have already decided to establish an Elephant Task Force to ensure effective elephant-driving operations."
- The task force will conduct round-the-clock monitoring, use modern tracking technology, and coordinate with local communities to minimize crop and property damage.
- The Karnataka government has also announced plans to recruit 540 new Forest Guards to strengthen forest management and wildlife protection efforts.

## Waves 2025: Inter-College Cultural Festival to be Held

**MANGALURU**

Mangalore University's Directorate of Student Welfare is organizing the "Waves 2025" inter-college cultural festival from November 25 to 27 at Mangalagangothri. The event's theme is "Cultural Integration 2025: Towards a Developed India."

The festival aims to select talented students to represent Mangalore University at the 39th Inter-University Youth Festival (Unifest) 2025-26, organized by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU), New Delhi.

The inaugural ceremony will be held on November 25 at 9:30 am at Mangala Auditorium, with Prof. P.L. Dharma, Vice-Chancellor of Mangalore University, presiding over the event. The festival will feature various competitions in music, dance, literature, theater, and fine arts, including classical and western vocal/instrumental, folk dance, and visual arts.

Around 500 students from 15 affiliated colleges have registered for the event, which will serve as a platform to nurture student artists and propel them to national and international stages.

The winners will represent Mangalore University at the AIU's 39th South-East Zonal Inter-University Youth Festival in Mysuru and the national Unifest in Chennai.

The event is expected to showcase the university's rich cultural heritage and provide a platform for students to exhibit their talent.

## Beary Research and Service Centre Inaugurated

**MANGALURU**

A new research and service centre dedicated to the Beary community was inaugurated in City, with prominent community leaders and intellectuals in attendance. The Bary Research and Service Centre, registered as a public trust, aims to promote the welfare and development of the Beary community.

M.P. Beary Jokatte and Muhammad Kulai were elected as the trust's chief advisors, while B.M. Hanif, former editor of Prajavani, was chosen as the honorary president. B.A. Muhammad Hanif was elected as the president, and B.A. Shamsuddin Madikeri was chosen as the general secretary.

The trust's board of trustees includes prominent community members such as Riaz Hussain Bantwal, M.B. Abdul Nazir Math Uppinangady, and S. Abdul Majid Kannur, among others.

The trust has decided to organize an inaugural function and seminar on January 10, 2026, in Mangaluru. The event will mark the beginning of the trust's efforts to promote the Beary language, culture, and community.

The trustees expressed their gratitude to the community for their support and urged everyone to participate in the trust's activities. The trust aims to work towards the betterment of the Beary community and promote their language and culture.

The trust's office-bearers and trustees are committed to taking the trust's activities forward and making it a success. They have appealed to the community to come forward and support the trust in its endeavour to promote the Beary language and culture.

## Beedi Workers Launch Indefinite Protest Over Pending Minimum Wages

**MANGALURU**

Beedi workers in Mangalore have launched an indefinite protest, demanding the payment of pending minimum wages for the past six years, including the new minimum wage implemented from April 2024. The protest, led by the South Canara Beedi Workers Federation (CITU), began in front of the Mini Vidhana Soudha.

Federation General Secretary Balakrishna Shetty addressed the protesters, stating that a meeting with Labour Minister and other leaders is scheduled for November 27. If no resolution is reached, they will stage a siege at the Labour Commissioner's office on November 28.

The Karnataka government had notified a minimum wage of ₹210 per 1,000 beedis in April 2018, along with a dearness allowance. However, beedi owners have allegedly not paid the wages, citing a High Court stay order. The new minimum wage, notified in February 2025, is ₹270 per 1,000 beedis, with an additional ₹31.92 as dearness allowance, making it ₹301.92. However, beedi owners are paying only ₹284.88 per 1,000 beedis.

The protesting workers, mostly women, are demanding fair wages and criticizing the government's apathy towards their plight. CITU District President B.M. Bhat accused the government of siding with beedi owners, while Federation President Sukumar Tokkottu welcomed the protesters.

## Yakshagana Artists' Sacrifices Should Not Be Undermined: N. Damodar

**MANGALURU**

Renowned literary figure N. Damodar Shetty emphasized the importance of recognizing the sacrifices made by Yakshagana artists, stating that their dedication to the art form should not be undermined. He was speaking at the Kumbla Sundar Rao Memorial and Award Function organized by Ranga Sangaathi Cultural Foundation and 'Keerthishesha Kumble Sundar Rao Sanjeevini Samithi' in Mangalore.

Shetty expressed disappointment over recent criticism of Yakshagana artists, saying that such comments were not constructive and may have underlying motives. He urged people to appreciate the artists' efforts and contribute to the growth of the art form.

Prabhakar Joshi, a scholar, highlighted Kumbla Sundar Rao's contributions to Yakshagana, noting that he was a talented artist who had become a Member of the Legislative Assembly and the first chairman of the Yakshagana Academy.

Raghuram Holla, a renowned Bhagavata of Tenku Thittu, was honored with the Kumble Sundar Rao Memorial Award.

The event also featured a Yakshagana Talamaddale performance, 'Angada Sandhana,' with notable artists participating.

Prabhakar Joshi suggested launching a portal dedicated to Kumble Sundar Rao, featuring his Yakshagana roles, speeches, and other contributions. He also proposed organizing a workshop to promote Yakshagana and starting a course on the subject.

## *ICYM Central Council Hosts Udhyam Sangathi: Igniting Entrepreneurial Spirit*

**MANGALURU**

The ICYM Central Council recently hosted Udhyam Sangathi, a youth entrepreneurship program aimed at inspiring and guiding aspiring young business minds. The event brought together participants for an enriching session of insights and interaction, with notable speakers sharing their expertise.

Michael D'Souza, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist, emphasized the importance of building cash capital, understanding value for money, and gaining sound knowledge before entering business. He encouraged the youth to be consistent, sincere, and to "start small, start now".

Lionel Aranha, Lawyer, Advisor, CA, Arbitrator, and Professor, stressed the need for strong business models, financial discipline, and understanding the difference between profitability and liquidity. He also highlighted the importance of written agreements, working capital costs, and business ethics.

**Initiatives and Support**

The event also highlighted initiatives like Yuva Sampark and Wowr, which continue to support young people in building their careers. Fr. Ashwin Lohith Cardoza, Karnataka Regional Youth Commission Secretary and ICYM Mangalore Diocese Director, appreciated the enthusiasm of the youth in organizing various projects for the betterment of the community.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks and a group photo, marking the end of an inspiring gathering.

## Man Missing for Two Months, Police Seek Public Help

**MANGALURU**

A 65-year-old man, Vinod Bhoja Salian, has been missing from Mangaluru since September 27, leaving his family and authorities scrambling to find him. Vinod, a resident of Ballalbagh, was last seen leaving his daughter-in-law's house in Bengaluru, with his mobile phone going unreachable since morning.

According to his family, Vinod had informed his daughter-in-law that he was heading back to Mangaluru, but he never arrived. His handbag was found at the reception counter of his residential complex, raising concerns about his safety.

Police have released a detailed description of Vinod, who is 5.6 feet tall, has a round face, wheatish complexion, and a sturdy build. He is conversant in Kannada, Tulu, English, and Hindi, and was last seen wearing a dark blue half-sleeved shirt with white stripes and blue trousers.

The police are urging anyone with information about Vinod's whereabouts to come forward and contact Barke police station immediately. "Any detail, no matter how small, could be crucial in tracing him," officials stated.

The search for Vinod continues, with his family and authorities hoping that he will be found safe and sound soon.

## QUICK READ

### 19 Calves Rescued Near Bengaluru

**Bengaluru**

Activists from pro-Hindu outfits intercepted a lorry near the Madavara metro station on the Tumakuru–Bengaluru national highway and rescued 19 calves allegedly being transported to a slaughterhouse. The groups alerted the police, following which the Madanayakanahalli police reached the spot, seized the vehicle and took the driver into custody for questioning. Authorities have registered a case and are verifying the source and intended destination of the cattle. The rescued calves were later shifted to a nearby gaushala for safe care and further examination.

### Anitha Haddannavar Appointed First DCP of South-West Division

**Bengaluru**

A new Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) office for the recently created South-West Division was inaugurated at the Jnanabharathi Police Station building on Monday. City Police Commissioner Seemanth Kumar Singh formally opened the facility. The South-West Division was formed three months ago by merging eight police stations from the South and West divisions — Kumbalgodi, Kengeri, Jnanabharathi, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Talaghattapura, Konanakunte, Kumaraswamy Layout and Subramanyapura. Anitha B. Haddannavar has taken charge as the first DCP of the division. Additional Commissioner of Police (Traffic) Karthik Reddy and other senior officials attended the inauguration.

### Sale of Meat Banned on Sadhu Vaswani Jayanti

**Bengaluru**

The Bengaluru North City Corporation (BMC) has announced a complete ban on animal slaughter and the sale of meat on November 25, marking Sadhu Vaswani Jayanti. The order prohibits slaughter in all licensed slaughterhouses and restricts meat sales across stalls and shops within BMC limits. Officials said the directive is issued every year as part of the observance of the spiritual leader's birth anniversary, during which followers promote non-violence and vegetarianism. The corporation has urged all establishments to comply, warning that violations will attract penalties as per municipal regulations.

# Crowd Control Bill: House panel races against deadline

Urgent review of crowd control bill needed to prevent future tragedies

**BENGALURU**

With less than two weeks left before the three-month deadline to review the contentious Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Place of Gathering) Bill, 2025, pressure is mounting on a House committee led by Home Minister G. Parameshwara. The winter session of the state legislature in Belagavi is fast approaching, yet the committee has not held its first meeting.

The bill was drafted in the wake of the tragic June stampede during Royal Challengers Bengaluru's IPL victory celebrations, which claimed 11 lives and sparked widespread calls for stricter event safety protocols. It is one of two bills that were referred to committees during the monsoon session. The second — the Karnataka Revenue (Second Amendment) Bill, 2025 — is being handled by a committee headed by Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda.

In August, Speaker U.T. Khader directed both committees to submit their reports within three months so the government could table revised versions in the winter session. While the Krishna Byre Gowda-led committee reviewing the Revenue Bill has made steady progress and is expected to submit its report by month-end, the committee headed by G. Parameshwara is yet to begin formal deliberations. Following repeated reminders from the Assembly secretariat, its first meeting has been fixed for November 27.

Parameshwara acknowledged the delay but remained optimistic. "I agree that we have taken time to convene meetings of the panel," he said. "But I still hope to submit the report well within the deadline so that we can table the vetted bill in the winter session. I am confident because the bill is ready. We only need to incorporate the changes suggested by members. We will seek an extension only if needed."

Speaker U.T. Khader had earlier stressed the urgency of the legislation, which aims to prevent dangerous crowd-related incidents and ensure public safety. "This is an important bill meant to prevent tragedies like the stampede that shook Bengaluru," Khader reiterated, urging the committee to prioritise the task.

Despite mounting pressure, the Parameshwara-led panel is scheduled to convene its first meeting only on November 27. With time running out, an extension appears likely unless the committee accelerates its work in the coming days.

# Labour codes trigger industry concern over rising ESI and gratuity

**BENGALURU**

The Centre's newly notified labour codes — pitched as a major reform to strengthen worker welfare and workplace safety — have sparked concerns among industry bodies, which warn that expanded health safeguards should not translate into heavier financial burdens for small and medium enterprises (SMEs). While officials argue that the measures will improve social security coverage, industry representatives insist that the public sector must shoulder a larger share of Employees' State Insurance (ESI) responsibilities instead of shifting costs to micro and small establishments.

Under the revised framework, employers are required to provide all workers above 40 years a free annual health check-up. Meanwhile, ESI coverage becomes voluntary for firms with fewer than 10 employees, but mandatory for establishments with even a single worker engaged in hazardous processes.

DP Danappa, president of the Peenya Industries Association (PIA), said the new provisions overlook a significant portion of workers. "Nearly 40 percent of the 13 lakh employees in the Peenya cluster earn more than the current ESI wage ceiling of ₹21,000 and are excluded from the scheme," he said. The association has urged the government to raise the coverage limit to ₹30,000 so more workers in small and medium industries benefit from ESI protection.

Danappa noted that around five lakh garment and micro-industry workers — among the most vulnerable — currently rely on ESI. "Annual health checks must be covered under ESI.

Subramanya Holla, President of the Bangalore Hotels Association, said the Centre may have issued the codes, but the impact will depend on state-level amendments. He welcomed the provision allowing women to work round-the-clock, noting that earlier restrictions had limited opportunities.

# Court rejects flat-size based maintenance billing in B'luru

**BENGALURU**

A city civil court has delivered a significant ruling that may influence how apartment complexes across Bengaluru calculate monthly maintenance, holding that home size cannot be the basis for determining charges. The XL Additional City Civil and Sessions Court has struck down the Purva Seasons Owners Association's "hybrid" billing model, which required residents of larger flats to pay higher monthly fees. The order, passed on November 20, came in response to a suit filed by 61-year-old resident Arun Kumar Rao.

The association had adopted the contested model during a virtual extraordinary general meeting on July 25, 2020. Under this structure, 74.1% of maintenance costs were apportioned based on super built-up area, while the remaining 25.9% was split equally among 660 flats. Rao argued that the system placed an unfair financial burden on owners of larger units despite their equal use of shared amenities such as lifts, security, and the clubhouse.

Judge N. Veena found multiple legal and procedural lapses in the association's adoption of the model. The court noted that no evidence was provided to show that the registrar had permitted a virtual meeting to amend bye-laws. It also flagged inaccuracies in the amendment proposal, including inconsistent use of the terms "built-up" and "super built-up" area, which could have influenced how residents voted. Gaps in the voting process, conflicting email communications, and the association's failure to address objections raised by several owners further weakened the validity of the resolution.

Observing that all residents use common facilities uniformly regardless of flat size, the court held that an area-linked levy was unreasonable. On this basis, it struck down all invoices issued between May and December 2020 under the hybrid model.

The association has been directed to revert to an equal per-flat maintenance system and has been prohibited from introducing any area-based fee structure through future bye-law amendments. It has also been restrained from disconnecting essential services to enforce disputed charges.

# 2 students killed by Vande Bharat; suicide suspected

**BENGALURU**

Two nursing students from Kerala died after they were hit by the Vande Bharat Express near Chikkabanavara railway station on Sunday evening. The deceased were identified as Justin Joseph (21) and Sterin Elsa Saji (19), both second-semester B.Sc. Nursing students at Saptagiri Nursing College.

According to Bengaluru Rural Railway Police, the incident occurred when the superfast train was passing through the stretch, killing both students on the spot. Police teams visited the location, conducted an inspection and later shifted the bodies for postmortem. Their families in Pathanamthitta, Kerala, have been informed. State Railway Superintendent of Police N. Yatish said preliminary examination of CCTV footage from the train indicated that the two students had died by suicide.

# Kannada must be loved as our own, says Dr A.C. Shanmugam

**BENGALURU**

Kannada should be cherished as our own language while respecting all other languages, said Dr A.C. Shanmugam, Vice-Chancellor of Rajarajeshwari Medical College. He was speaking at the 70th Kannada Rajyotsava celebrations held at the college auditorium on the Bengaluru–Mysuru highway.

Offering floral tributes to the portrait of Mother Bhuvaneshwari, he said that cultivating a sense of belonging as Kannadigas strengthens our commitment to protect and promote the Kannada language. He urged everyone to prioritise Kannada, use it wherever possible, and help contribute to its growth. Kannada, with its distinct culture, land, and heritage, must be introduced to children early so they understand its richness, he added.

# Woman murdered in friend's room; accused on the run

**BENGALURU**

A 21-year-old woman was taken to her friend's rented room and murdered by a youth in Thammenahalli, Bengaluru North taluk. The victim, Devisree, hailed from Bikkimvaripalli village in Andhra Pradesh's Annamaya district and had been studying in Bengaluru for the past three years.

A BBM student at a reputed city college, she had accompanied Prem Vardhan to her friend's room on Sunday morning. According to police, Prem allegedly killed her inside the room and fled the spot, returning alone. The incident came to light only on Monday morning when the friend discovered the crime and alerted authorities.

Devisree, the youngest daughter of the Jagadambha family, had been enrolled by her parents in the Bengaluru college to pursue higher studies. Madanayakanahalli Police have registered an FIR and launched a manhunt for Prem Vardhan, who is currently absconding. The body has been shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem, and distraught family members gathered outside the mortuary.

Speaking to reporters, Devisree's mother said her daughter had spoken to her father at 11 a.m. on Sunday. Attempts to reach her later went unanswered. "I don't know what happened after she went to her friend's room. We want justice for our daughter," she said.

# Kashmiri doctor cheated of crores by fake PMO officer; one held

**BENGALURU**

Vijayanagar police have arrested a man for allegedly cheating a Kashmiri doctor of ₹2.7 crore by posing as an officer from the Prime Minister's Office.

The accused, identified as Sujay alias Sujayendra, a resident of Vijayanagar, had been projecting himself as a high-ranking central government official despite being unemployed.

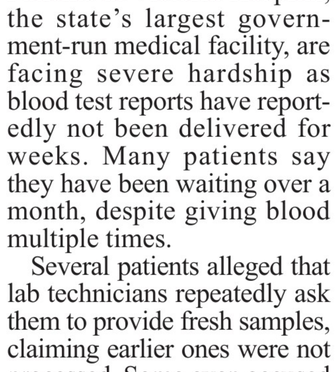
Police said Sujayendra even claimed to be the adopted son of Union Home Minister Amit Shah and had managed to appear on public platforms, including one with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, to bolster his false identity.

# Homebuyers petition NHRC over delay in apartment ownership law

**BENGALURU**

The Karnataka Home Buyers Forum has approached the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), accusing the state government of causing prolonged hardship to apartment residents by delaying the notification of the Karnataka Apartment Ownership and Management Act, 2025. In a letter to NHRC Chairperson Justice V. Ramasubramanian, the forum said the delay violates the life, liberty, equality, and dignity of thousands of buyers who remain without legal rights over their homes and common areas.

The forum — an umbrella body of buyers' associations active since 2021 — said that for more than a year, multiple state departments have acknowledged the urgent need



for updated legislation, yet no notification has been issued. Because of this, buyers are unable to register their associations, assume control of common areas, or fully claim the protections guaranteed under the Real Estate Regulatory Authority (RERA).

The petition includes government documents dating back to March 2023:

- Housing department notes stating that the 2016–17 RERA rules do not adequately cover association registration.
- A February 2024 communication from the cooperation department outlining gaps in managing common areas.
- A June 2024 update from the urban development department indicating that a new apartment Act was under preparation.
- Another June 2024 note saying the proposed law would replace the outdated Karnataka Ownership Flats Act (KOFA) and was in its final drafting stage.
- An October 2024 RERA response assuring that the draft Act would be released "soon."

Despite these assurances, no law has been notified. This, the forum said, has stalled the transfer of common areas from builders to resident associations — a key RERA requirement — and left many groups functioning without legal standing.

HUNGER-FREE MISSION

# *Balagangadharanath Swamiji's legacy hailed*

**BENGALURU**

Balagangadharanath Swamiji's lifelong commitment to ensuring food and education for every child was remembered with deep reverence at the BGS Founder's Day celebrations held at the BGS Grounds on Kengeri–Uttarahalli Main Road. Adi Chunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math Seer, Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Swamiji, said the Swamiji's efforts in the 1970s—when many parents struggled to provide even basic meals for their children—laid the foundation for a hunger-free, education-driven society.

Addressing the gathering at the two-day event, he said Balagangadharanath Swamiji had foreseen the changing nature of education and championed international-standard learning long before it became a national priority. "His vision ensured that BGS institutions earned respect for excellence. Today, more than 500 institutions under BGS provide quality education to

1.7 lakh students," he said. Urging students to pursue their goals with sincerity and without overthinking the outcome, he reminded them that consistent effort holds greater value than results alone.

Dr. Prakashnath Swamiji, Managing Director of BGS and SJB Group of Institutions, said the success of the celebrations reflected the blessings and guidance of their Gurus. He noted that BGS continues to hold a special place among spiritual leaders across the country, which is why many math heads attended the event without the need for formal invitations. He acknowledged teachers, principals and staff as the backbone of the institution.

Actor Ninasam Satish, an alumnus of the Math, said he owed his achievements to the blessings of the Gurus and the values imparted by the institution. "Whatever I am today is because of their guidance," he recalled.

Lok Sabha MP Dr. C.N. Manjunath, Agriculture Minister Chaluvarayaswamy, actor-director Jogi Prem, actress Rakshita, and actor Sapthami Gowda were among those present.

# Patients wait for weeks as Victoria Hospital delays blood reports

**BENGALURU**

Patients at Victoria Hospital, the state's largest government-run medical facility, are facing severe hardship as blood test reports have reportedly not been delivered for weeks. Many patients say they have been waiting over a month, despite giving blood multiple times.

Several patients alleged that lab technicians repeatedly ask them to provide fresh samples, claiming earlier ones were not processed. Some even accused staff of delaying dispatch of collected samples to the laboratory, resulting in blood clotting and unusable samples.

With thousands visiting the hospital daily, patients say such lapses are seriously affecting treatment. "What should we do if the report doesn't come even after giving blood four or five times?" one patient asked. Many said doctors are unable to proceed with treatment without timely reports, leaving them in distress. Hospital sources attributed the delays to heavy workload, slow lab processing and lapses in sample handling.

## QUICK READ

### Tech clinic training for entrepreneurs

**Chitradurga**

A two-day training programme on "Technology Clinic" will be held on November 28 and 29 for industrial entrepreneurs in Chitradurga. The event is being organised jointly by the Department of Industries and Commerce, District Industries Centre, Karnataka Technical Consultancy Organisation (TECSOK), and KCTU under the Central Government's RAMP scheme. The sessions will focus on technological aspects of the renowned Molakalmuru saree industry. The training will be conducted from 10 am to 5 pm at the second floor of Panchajanya Complex, in front of Sarvodaya School, Molakalmuru. Officials have urged all industrial entrepreneurs to participate and make effective use of the programme, District Industries Centre Joint Director B. Anand said.

# CM inaugurates development projects worth ₹1 lakh crore

Siddaramaiah launched over 2,000 projects worth ₹1 lakh crore statewide, reportedly countering Opposition claims of an 'empty treasury'

**CHIKKABALLAPUR**

In a spectacular show of development blitz, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday inaugurated and laid foundation stones for over 2,000 projects cumulatively worth more than ₹1 lakh crore across the state, with several mega schemes unveiled in Chikkaballapura district's Shidlaghatta taluk.

Speaking at the event, the CM directly countered the Opposition's repeated charge that "the Congress government has an empty treasury." He declared, "To those who say the treasury is empty, we are answering with ₹1 lakh crore worth of development works through guaranteed schemes and other projects. Our government has not only spent over ₹1 lakh crore on guarantee schemes so far but is simultaneously executing development works of similar magnitude."

Highlighting today's achievements, he said the newly inaugurated Hi-Tech Rose Garden Market will benefit rose growers across the entire state, while multiple high-value projects in Shidlaghatta demonstrate the government's rapid pace of development. "We promised and we delivered. Guarantees are being implemented exactly as announced," he asserted.

The CM revealed that the state has already spent more than ₹1 lakh crore on five guarantee schemes and is simultaneously pushing development across sectors including irrigation, urban and rural development, and welfare. "Our government is bringing development and welfare schemes directly to people's doorsteps," he said, promising a new Vidhana Soudha-like complex for Shidlaghatta soon.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, District Incharge Minister M.C. Sudhakar, several MLAs, MLCs, district officials, and thousands of citizens attended the grand event. The day-long program included inauguration of the Hi-Tech Silk Cocoon Market, drinking water projects for 164 villages under H.N. Valle Phase-3, and distribution of benefits to various sections.

With Monday's massive development push, the Congress government has thrown down the gauntlet to its critics, using concrete projects as its most powerful response.

# Assurances from MLA and DC ends farmers' hunger strike

**NARGUND**

**Farmer leader Shankar Ambali announced that the hunger strike was withdrawn based on assurances that procurement centers would open soon. He warned that if no action is taken within seven days, a district-wide bandh and intensified protests will follow**

Farmers in Nargund ended their indefinite hunger strike on Monday after MLA N.H. Konaraddi and Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu visited the protest site and assured them that the government is taking steps to begin the procurement of maize under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme.

The farmers had been staging a sit-in and fasting for three consecutive days, demanding immediate procurement of their produce.

MLA Konaraddi informed the farmers that he had personally discussed the matter with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and emphasized that the state government is committed to purchasing maize, regardless of pending approvals from the Centre. He explained that technical reasons had caused delays, but steps were being taken to resolve them. Ministers H.K. Patil and Chalavadi Swamy have been sent to Delhi to clear procedural hurdles, and procurement centers will be opened soon, he assured. He requested the farmers to withdraw the hunger strike.

Deputy Commissioner Divya Prabhu also addressed the farmers, stating that senior government officials, including Principal Secretary Shalini Rajneesh, are actively working on expediting maize procurement. She added that the administration understands the seriousness of the issue and is committed to resolving it at the earliest. She highlighted that Dharwad district was among the first to conduct crop-loss assessments and release compensation, with Nargund receiving early relief. More compensation will follow in the next phase.

The DC stated that nearly ₹65 crore has already been credited to farmers' accounts, and additional funds will be transferred soon. She acknowledged that some farmers had not received payments due to technical issues, but instructions have been issued to taluk-level officials to address these promptly. Farmers were urged to contact the tahsildar's office or the district toll-free number for assistance.

She further explained that heavy rains had affected the quality of pulses and maize, creating challenges in procurement. Out of nearly 9,000 farmers who registered to sell pulses, only 76 could be procured due to quality issues. The matter has been escalated to district and central authorities for urgent resolution.

# Special prayers offered seeking to see DK Shivakumar as CM

**RAMANAGARA**

Supporters of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in his home district have performed special prayers, urging the Congress high command to appoint him as Karnataka's next Chief Minister. The event took place on Monday at the Jalasiddeshwara Swamy Temple in Bilagumba village of Ramanagara taluk.

Shivakumar's followers organised a special puja and anna dasoha, saying he has diligently fulfilled all responsibilities assigned to him as Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC President. They noted that he works tirelessly for the party and has always stood by the Congress during difficult times, earning the reputation of the party's "trouble-shooter". Supporters insisted that his dedication should be recognised by making him Chief Minister.

Youth Congress leader Sunil said Shivakumar has built the party brick by brick despite numerous challenges. He argued that it is unfair for someone else to enjoy power while Shivakumar toils for the organisation. He urged Rahul Gandhi to intervene immediately and honour the commitment made to Shivakumar.

Block Congress President and Ramanagara Urban Development Authority Chairman A.B. Chetan Kumar said Shivakumar has served the Congress for over 40 years and played a crucial role in bringing the party back to power. He said the high command must reward his hard work.

Another youth leader, Santosh, said Siddaramaiah is respected statewide, but leaders must keep their promises. He expressed confidence that the high command will not sideline Shivakumar. Citing party tradition of appointing KPCC presidents as Chief Ministers, he said Shivakumar deserves the position for his contribution during the elec

# T.K. Shanthappa elected as prez of taluk Krishika Samaj

**RAMANAGARA**

Advocate T.K. Shanthappa has been elected unopposed as the new president of the Ramanagara Taluk Krishika Samaj. The election was held on Monday at the Taluk Agriculture Department premises to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former president A. Srinivas. As no other nomination was filed, the election officer, Assistant Director of the Agriculture Department H.R. Pramod Kumar, declared Shanthappa elected.

Members and leaders of the Krishika Samaj congratulated Shanthappa at the organisation's office. After assuming the post, he expressed gratitude, saying he was humbled by the trust placed in him. He highlighted that the Krishika Samaj currently lacks its own land and building, and securing a site is a top priority. He said all members would jointly appeal to MLA Iqbal Hussain, former MLA K. Raju, concerned ministers, and senior officials to grant land for the organisation. He expressed confidence that their request would receive positive consideration.

Shanthappa added that government grants for the Samaj were insufficient and that efforts would be made to secure increased funding. He promised to work for better market access for farmers, improved infrastructure, and more attention to agricultural issues from the government. He assured that all benefits and schemes provided by the state would be delivered honestly and effectively to farmers.

District Krishika Samaj President Ittamadu B. Gopal, speaking on the occasion, said agriculture is gaining prominence today and many who once dismissed farming now depend on it. He noted that both state and central governments are extending strong support to farmers, and departments must ensure that accurate information reaches them. The district Samaj, he said, continues to guide farmers and promote agricultural activities.

The event was attended by Assistant Director Pramod Kumar, Taluk Vice-President Revalingayya (Appajanna), and members K. Shivalingayya, A. Srinivas, S.T. Prem Kumar, Puttagouramma, Lakshmi Narayan, N. Sridhar, Nagaraju, Muttaraju, Gangadhar, Uday Kumar, Doddamaregowda, and others.

# Navalgund launches MSP procurement centre for hesaru kalu

**NAVALGUND**

The government has officially launched the procurement of hesaru kalu (green gram) under the Minimum Support Price (MSP) scheme by inaugurating a crop procurement centre at the Primary Rural Agricultural Credit Cooperative Society in Shirkol village of Navalgund taluk.

With the opening of this centre, farmers can now sell their produce directly to the government at the assured support price, bringing much-needed relief to growers affected by market fluctuations.

During the inauguration, Society President Shekhargouda Kabbar and Vice-President Dharmappa K. Gaaniger welcomed farmers and assured them that the centre would operate transparently to ensure smooth procurement. They emphasised that the MSP scheme is intended to protect farmers from distress sales and urged growers to make full use of the facility.

Somanna Baliger, President of the Taluk Farmers' Association, highlighted that the establishment of the procurement centre was a long-standing demand of local farmers, especially after recent crop loss and market instability. He appreciated the timely intervention of the authorities in setting up the centre in Shirkol, which will benefit farmers from surrounding villages as well.

Several society members, including Erappa Karni, Mallikarjun Gaaniger, Mallikarjun Patil, Shivashankarappa Hooli, Ajjappa Moraba, Gurappa Rayagonnawar, Nagappa Talawar, Leelavati V. Shiraguppi, Secretary Manjunath Gaaniger, Malatesh Hanchinal, Yallappa Yadawad, Limbanna Gaaniger, Parappa Gaaniger, Adivappa Gaaniger, Siddappa, and M. M. Mulla, were present on the occasion.

Their participation marked a strong show of community support, reinforcing the importance of government-backed procurement in strengthening farmers' livelihood security.

**KALAPRATIBHOTSAVA**

# *Children shine at Kalapratibhotsava with vibrant performances*

**CHIKKABALLAPUR**

Traditional Indian art forms reflect harmony, unity, and emotional fulfilment, and it is the responsibility of every citizen to preserve and promote these cultural treasures, said Karnataka Janapada Academy President Gollahalli Shivaprasad. He was speaking after inaugurating the Kalapratibhotsava organised by the Department of Kannada and Culture at Kannada Bhavana.

Shivaprasad emphasised that art plays a vital role in easing stress and creating balance in life. For students in particular, artistic activities help build mental stability and concentration. He said cultural programmes and talent festivals should be held regularly in schools, colleges, and public spaces. Art forms passed down by earlier generations must continue to be celebrated and kept alive, he added.

Folk artist and Rangabhoomi Award winner Nagaraj also spoke, praising the organisers for ensuring strong participation. He said that hosting cultural events is not enough—encouraging a large number of artists and students to take part is equally important, and this festival has succeeded in doing that.

Film playback singer Mohan Kumar entertained the audience with a medley of traditional folk songs. Assistant Director of the Kannada and Culture Department, D.M. Ravikumar, presented an overview of the Kalapratibhotsava.

Several dignitaries were present, including Theatre Academy member K.V. Nayak, District Kannada Sahitya Parishat President Prof Kodirangappa, and artists So. Su. Nagendranath and Dyaveerappa. Officials Arunamma and Venkatesh from the department also attended.

The panel of judges included Divya Shivanarayan, Kavita, Shrilakshmi, Shantala Aras, S.N. Manjunath, B.P. Lokesh, Dance Srinivas, Ashok Babu, Somashekar, Mahalingayya Mathad, Nagalingayya Vastrad, Kishore Kumar, Chalapathi Gowda, and Venu. Their presence added value to the vibrant cultural showcase, which saw enthusiastic performances from children across the district.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **MOHAMMED NOORULLA**, Resident of No 676/ 967/ 2, 2nd Cross, Old M.C. Road, Shankar Pura, Mandya-571401 have changed my name to **NOORULLA**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 24.11.2025 before notary G DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **ASGAR ALI**, resident of No. 105, 5th Cross, P & T Colony, Venkateshpuram, A.C. Post, Bengaluru-560045, have changed my Minor Son's name from **MOHAMMED ADNAN ASGAR** to **MOHAMMED ADNAN**, vide affidavit dated: 24.11.2025, before Notary SUMITHRA.N, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **BALKISHUNNISA**, Resident of No 676/ 967/ 2, 2nd Cross, Old M.C. Road, Shankar Pura, Mandya-571401 have changed my name to **BALKIS UNNISA** Vide Affidavit Dated: 24.11.2025 before notary G DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

**NAME CHANGE**

I, **MYMUNA BI,** Resident of No 365/ D, 4th Cross, BMP Layout, Vijayanagar, Bangalore-560040, have changed my name to **MAIMUNA BI**, Vide Affidavit Dated: 24.11.2025 before notary G DAYANANDA, Bengaluru.

**CHANGE OF NAME**

I MAHESH SHANKARAPPA YANDIGERI S/O SHANKARAPPA YANDIGERI, R/O No. 43. Anugraha, 11th Main Balaji Enclave, Near Sai Aster Apartments, Ananthapura, Yelahanka, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560064, have changed my name and shall hereafter be known as MAHESH YANDIGERI.

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ಸಂ.ಕಾಅ/ತಾ.ಪಂ./ಹುಣಸೂರು/ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್
**ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ.01/2025–26**
**ದಿ: 19–11–2025**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಹುಣಸೂರುರವರು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರುರವರ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ PWD/PRED Registered by Government ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾಗಿರುವ ಅಂದರೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ/ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯವಾಗಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವ 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ 4ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮತ್ತು ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನಮೂನೆ KW-1 ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಂತೆ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸಂಯುಕ್ತ ಅನುದಾನ (ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ: 2515–00–102–0–62 ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಂತೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬೇಕು. ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತವು ರೂ.116.00ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಒಟ್ಟು 08 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತವು ಸದರಿ ನೋಟಿಷಿಕೇಷನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ/ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಂತೆ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗೆ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಮತ್ತು ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಆನ್ ಲೈನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ದಿ: 19.11.2025 ರಿಂದ 27.11.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟೀಕರಣ/ವಿಚಾರಿಸಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿ: 27.11.2025, 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾದರೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ: 27.11.2025ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಘಂಟೆಯ ನಂತರವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ (e-procurement portal) https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಈ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಇನ್ನೂ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಹುಣಸೂರು (ಫೋನ್ ನಂ.9449933222 ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು
DIPR/DDMYS/1264/KSMCA/706/2025-26

QUICK READ

## Bihar battles cold, fog, and pollution

**Patna**

The onset of winters in Bihar has seen marked increase in fog as well as increase in pollution to alarming levels. The Meteorological Department has also issued a warning that minimum temperatures may fall by 2–4°C due to the north-westerly winds. According to the IMD, night temperatures in several districts may slip below 10°C, while dense morning fog is expected to reduce visibility to around 600 meters. With the drop in temperature, air pollution levels have worsened across many parts of the state. Hajipur in Vaishali district classified as an industrial belt, has once again emerged as one of the most polluted locations.

## India thanks UAE govt for support over plane crash during Dubai Air Show

**New Delhi**

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Monday thanked the UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for offering condolences over the plane crash during the Dubai Air Show in Dubai, which resulted in the death of an Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot, Wing Commander Namansh Syal. Wing Commander Namansh Syal died in a Tejas fighter jet crash at the Dubai Air Show on Friday. He was a resident of Kangra district in Himachal Pradesh. In a statement shared on X, the MEA stated, Thank you for your solidarity UAE's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We appreciate the sentiments of the Government and people of UAE.

## 'India sees big scope for tie-up with Canada in critical minerals'

**New Delhi**

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Monday that India sees considerable scope for collaboration with Canada in critical minerals, mineral processing technologies, clean energy and supply-chain diversification. Addressing the Indo-Canadian Business Chamber here, the minister further stated that India offers strong advantages in emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, machine learning and next-generation data centres, supported by the world's largest annual pool of STEM graduates.

# CM Bhupendra Patel Inaugurates Saurashtra's Longest Flyover

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel inaugurated Jamnagar's longest flyover, promising major traffic relief and improved urban connectivity

**JAMNAGAR**

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel on Monday inaugurated Saurashtra's longest flyover in Jamnagar, a major urban infrastructure project constructed at a cost of more than ₹226 crore. The four-lane elevated corridor stretches 3,750 metres from the iconic Subhash Bridge to the busy Saat Rasta Circle, offering long-awaited relief from persistent congestion across some of the city's most crowded junctions. Officials said the flyover will dramatically improve movement towards key destinations including Dwarka, Reliance, Nayara, GSFC and Rajkot Road.

Jamnagar has long struggled with traffic bottlenecks around Nagnath Junction, Grain Market, Bedi Gate and Three Darwaja. The new corridor connecting Subhash Bridge, Saat Rasta Circle and Lal Bangla Circle is expected to ease this daily pressure, resulting in quicker and smoother commutes for thousands of residents. Authorities noted that the project will also help reduce traffic jams, lower fuel consumption and save valuable travel time for the city's growing population.

Beyond improving mobility, the project is notable for its extensive development of public amenities in the under-space below the flyover. Spread across 61 bays, the area includes parking capacity for over 1,200 vehicles—comprising 850 two-wheelers, 250 four-wheelers, 100 rickshaws, 100 other vehicles and 26 buses. Additional facilities include pay-and-use toilets at four locations, a labour facilitation centre, dedicated sports activity zones across 10 bays, seating areas at multiple points and designated food zones, transforming the under-bridge stretch into a vibrant public utility space.

The inauguration event saw the presence of Minister-in-Charge Arjun Modhwadia, Minister of State for Education Rivaba Jadeja, MP Poonam Madam, Mayor Vinod Khimsuriya, district and municipal officials, MLAs and other dignitaries.

# Ministers Begin Taking Charge in Newly Formed Nitish Kumar Govt, Outline Key Priorities

**PATNA**

Newly appointed ministers in Nitish Kumar's cabinet formally assumed charge, outlining priorities for governance and departmental improvements

With portfolio allocations finalised in the newly constituted Nitish Kumar government, ministers have begun formally taking charge of their respective departments, marking the first phase of administrative mobilisation under the new NDA-led dispensation. On Monday, senior JDU leader Bijendra Yadav assumed office as the head of the Liquor Prohibition Department. Reaffirming the government's commitment to Bihar's existing ban on alcohol, Yadav said the prohibition policy would continue without dilution. He added that the department would soon conduct review meetings to identify implementation gaps and strengthen enforcement mechanisms on the ground.

Surendra Mehta also took charge of the Animal Husbandry and Fisheries Department. Expressing gratitude to Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, he said the department would work on a structured roadmap to support cattle rearers and fisheries farmers. Mehta noted that consultations with departmental officers would help identify priority areas to improve productivity and welfare measures.

Sanjay Singh Tiger, the newly appointed Minister of Labour Resources, highlighted skill development and labour welfare as his immediate focus areas. He stated that ongoing departmental projects would be accelerated and that a comprehensive review meeting would soon be held to streamline targets and finalise action plans. We have set targets and will achieve them. Our focus is on promoting skill development programs in Bihar and ensuring the welfare of labourers, he said.

Nitin Nabin formally assumed charge as the Minister of Road Construction and emphasised the need to prioritise modern infrastructure development to support the state's economic growth.

Earlier on Saturday, several other ministers had taken office, including Dilip Jaiswal who assumed the Industries Ministry. Nitish Kumar's close aide Ashok Choudhary took charge of the Rural Work Department, while Deepak Prakash.

*Madhya Pradesh Minister Vishwas Sarang criticised Jamiat chief Arshad Madani, accusing him of defending terrorists and promoting divisions*

# MP Minister Vishwas Sarang Criticises Jamiat Chief Arshad Madani

**BHOPAL**

Madhya Pradesh Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Vishwas Sarang on Monday strongly condemned Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind chief Maulana Arshad Madani, calling it unfortunate that an Islamic scholar is protecting terrorists. His remarks came amid a nationwide controversy triggered by Madani's comments alleging discrimination against Muslims during security investigations linked to recent incidents.

Sarang said that individuals promoting appeasement and communalism were attempting to sow religious discord across the country. The BJP minister asserted that Madani's statements amounted to advocating protection for terrorists at a time when security agencies had presented clear evidence linking certain individuals or organisations to terror-related activities. Anyone acting against the nation or supporting terrorism will not be spared, Sarang stated, emphasising that India would not tolerate any attempts to shield those involved in anti-national acts.

The controversy began after Madani's address at a session held at the Jamiat headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday. During his speech, the Jamiat chief alleged that Muslims in India face discrimination, referencing multiple investigations into Al Falah University following the recent car blast near Delhi's historic Red Fort. He contrasted the situation with global examples, noting that Muslims such as Zohran Mamdani in New York and a Khan in London could become mayors, while in India, Muslims allegedly struggle to attain positions like university vice-chancellors.

Madani had stated, The world thinks that Muslims have been crippled and finished. I don't believe so. Today, a Muslim, Mamdani, can become the mayor of New York, a Khan can become mayor of London; whereas in India, no one can even become a university vice chancellor. His remarks sparked strong reactions across political circles, with several leaders accusing him of spreading misinformation and attempting to inflame communal sentiments.

Sarang's sharp criticism adds to the growing political backlash, with the controversy expected to fuel further debate on communal harmony, national security, and the responsibilities of community leaders in shaping public discourse.

# TVK functionaries appear before CBI in Karur stampede case

**CHENNAI**

Key functionaries of the Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) appeared before the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in Karur on Monday, as the probe into the September 27 stampede that claimed 41 lives continues to widen. Party general secretary N. 'Bussy' Anand and general secretary (election campaign management) Aadhav Arjuna reached the CBI's camp office in response to summonses issued by the investigators. They were accompanied by TVK Karur West district secretary K.P. Mathiyazhagan and senior functionary M.C. Pounraj, sources said.

The CBI recorded their statements as part of its investigation into the tragic incident that unfolded during a massive rally addressed by TVK founder and actor Vijay in Karur.

The rally, which drew tens of thousands of supporters, ended in a fatal stampede near the venue's exit points, leaving 41 people dead and several others injured. The probe is being monitored by a committee appointed by the Supreme Court, underscoring the seriousness with which the case is being handled.

According to officials, investigators are examining the organisational preparedness of the event, crowd management protocols, permissions obtained from authorities, and the sequence of events that led to the deadly crush.

The CBI is also analysing video footage, security arrangements, and communication between district-level organisers and the party's central leadership. The agency has been summoning functionaries in batches to piece together a clearer picture of how the situation spiralled out of control. Monday's appearance by top TVK office-bearers is seen as a key step in understanding decision-making at the highest level of the party's campaign machinery.

Earlier, on November 3, a CBI team visited the TVK headquarters in Panaiyur, Chennai, as part of the same investigation. Joint general secretary C.T.R. Nirmal Kumar told journalists that officers sought detailed records related to the Karur rally.

# Growth in Afghan trade despite Pak routes closure

**NEW DELHI**

A World Bank document has shown that despite the closure of trade routes with Pakistan, Afghanistan's exports increased by 13 per cent in October compared to September, where India was the largest importer, receiving 50 per cent of Kabul's total exports last month.

Reportedly, on November 24, quoted the bank's Afghanistan Economic Monitor, also mentioning that imports increased by two per cent in October compared to September, exceeding USD 1.1 billion.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan's Ministry of Economy has emphasised that increasing exports and reducing imports are key priorities of the country's economic policy, and alternative trade routes are being explored to meet these goals.

According to the World Bank, total exports reached USD 1.1 billion during the first seven months of FY2025, up 10 per cent from USD 0.96 billion during the same period in FY2024. India, said the document, emerged as Afghanistan's largest export destination, accounting for 50 per cent of monthly exports in October and 38.3 per cent of cumulative exports.

Uzbekistan also expanded its share to six per cent during the first seven months of the fiscal year. However, Pakistan, which the monitor pointed out as historically the top market, saw its share fall to 35.8 per cent, with monthly export halving in October. Continued border closures could push this share even lower, it added.

This monthly Afghanistan Economic Monitor is part of Afghanistan Futures, the World Bank's programme of research, monitoring, and analytical reports on the Afghan economy and society. Afghanistan Futures, according to the organisation, seeks to inform the international policy dialogue as the international community assesses how it can support the people of Afghanistan. The Afghanistan Economic Monitor joins the regular surveys on the private sector, household welfare, and gender, as well as the sectoral reports that inform the Afghanistan Development Update, a biannual flagship report.

## Youth in Kolkata hotel murdered over monetary dispute

**KOLKATA**

Investigation into the murder of a youth in a hotel room in the Kasba area of south Kolkata revealed that a dispute over money between the two parties, who met through a dating app, was the reason for the killing.

Police sources said on Monday that a young man named Dhruba Saha (20) and a young woman named Komal Saha (20) had checked into the hotel with IT professional Adarsh Losalka (33) at a hotel in the Kasba area on Friday night. On Saturday afternoon, Losalka's body was found naked and his legs tied up. The police said there was a deep injury on his head and that his death was due to asphyxiation.

On Sunday evening, the police arrested both Dhruba and Komal, who claimed to be a content writer for a dating app, on charges of murdering Losalka.

Investigation into the case revealed that Komal was an escort and Dhruba is her agent.

A senior officer of Kolkata Police said that it was Komal who had met Losalka on the dating app and fixed the meeting at the hotel following a long chat.

According to the police, Komal is a resident of Barrackpore in North 24 Parganas district, while Dhruba is a resident of Nadia district. Both lived together at East Sinthee in the Dum Dum area, on the northern outskirts of Kolkata. The police said they subsequently surrendered themselves and confessed to the murder.

AYODHYA FLAG CEREMONY

# *Ayodhya Gears Up for Historic Flag-Hoisting at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir as Leaders Highlight Significance*

**AYODHYA**

Ayodhya is witnessing an atmosphere of anticipation and devotion as preparations reach their peak ahead of Tuesday's historic flag-hoisting ceremony at the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Mandir. Senior leaders, seers, and members of the temple trust have highlighted the spiritual and cultural significance of the moment, marking yet another major milestone in the ongoing revival of Ayodhya's sacred heritage.

Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Brajesh Pathak expressed pride in the occasion, noting that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hoist the flag during the ceremony. On 22 January 2024, PM Modi inaugurated the Ram Lalla Temple, he said, adding that Tuesday's event reflects the continued spiritual resurgence of the holy city. Temple authorities have also confirmed the sanctity and grandeur planned for the ceremony.

Champat Rai, General Secretary of the Shri Ram Mandir Trust, said that Prime Minister Modi, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat, Uttar Pradesh Governor and Chief Minister will be present at the event. He added that hoisting the flag atop the Janmabhoomi Mandir holds deep symbolic value for millions of devotees.

Offering insight into the Prime Minister's longstanding

association with the Ram Mandir movement, Govind Dev Giri Maharaj, Treasurer of the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust, said that PM Modi has always remained a devoted pracharak of the RSS. The temple was a clear objective, and he has fulfilled that mission, he noted. He recalled the Prime Minister's respectful engagement with trust members, often seeking their views and offering guidance when needed.

Meanwhile, Ayodhya's municipal corporation has decorated roads and dividers with flower petals as the city prepares for a massive vehicle procession accompanying the ceremony.

Gopal Rao, Special Invitee Member of the Trust, said preparations are in full swing. Tomorrow, the ceremonial wedding of Ram and Janki will take place, with events scheduled for the evening. This year, we will hold a symbolic celebration and plan to celebrate it with full grandeur next year, he added.

## QUICK READ

### CPI(M) likely to win 14 seats in local body polls

**Thiruvananthapuram**

Even before polling for the Kerala local body elections, scheduled in two phases on December 9 and 11th, the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) has already secured unopposed victories in 14 wards in Kannur district. The wins come following a series of nomination paper cancellations, withdrawals, and allegations of forged signatures and coercion, leaving LDF candidates without any rivals in several wards. Monday was the last day for withdrawal of nominations. In Anthoor Municipality and Kannapuram Grama Panchayat alone, LDF candidates have been elected unopposed in 11 wards.

### Madras HC questions 30 pc interest charged by film financiers

**Chennai**

The Madras High Court, on Monday, opened a crucial discussion on the legality and ethicality of steep interest rates charged by film financiers, saying that rates as high as 30 per cent per annum could amount to exploitation even in high-value commercial transactions. The court's intervention comes in the backdrop of a long-running financial dispute between actor-producer Vishal Krishna Reddy and Lyca Productions. A division bench of Justices S.M. Subramaniam and Mohammed Shaffiq, hearing an appeal filed by Vishal, signalled concern over the prevalent practice in the Tamil film industry where lenders often impose heavy interest rates on loans extended to producers and actors.

### Gita Mahotsav begins in Kurukshetra amid vedic mantras

**Kurukshetra**

Amid the sound of Vedic mantras and conch shells, the International Gita Mahotsav on Monday commenced with great fervour, where the sacred Bhagavad Gita was ceremoniously worshipped. With the grand worship (mahapoojan) of the Gita and the chanting of its verses, the Mahotsav was formally inaugurated in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The entire atmosphere around Brahma Sarovar was filled with the divine vibrations of Gita recitations. At the Purushottampura Bagh, near Brahma Sarovar, guests were welcomed amidst Vedic chants. Folk artists from various states of the country, dressed in their regional attire.

# Assam Accelerates Police Infrastructure Development

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma highlighted major police infrastructure upgrades underway to enhance safety and strengthen state security.

**GUWAHATI**

Assam is intensifying its efforts to build a stronger and more efficient policing system, with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma announcing a series of large-scale infrastructure projects aimed at improving law and order across the state. Sharing updates on social media platform X, the Chief Minister said that the government is committed to creating safer communities by investing heavily in modern facilities, upgraded equipment, and enhanced police capabilities.

Sarma revealed that 16 new police housing projects are currently being developed to provide improved living conditions for police personnel and their families. According to him, better housing directly contributes to higher morale, improved operational readiness and a more motivated force. Alongside these projects, five modern commando battalions are also being raised in different parts of Assam to strengthen the state's combat capabilities against organised crime, insurgency and emerging security challenges.

These initiatives are not just about buildings or facilities; they are about creating an ecosystem where our police force can function more efficiently and effectively, the Chief Minister said. He added that with modern stations, upgraded equipment and advanced training systems, the government aims to deliver greater protection and peace to the people of Assam.

Sarma emphasised that strong police infrastructure plays a central role in boosting public confidence, deterring criminal activities and ensuring quick response during emergencies. He noted that over the past few years, the state has intensified efforts to modernise police stations, enhance forensic capabilities, expand surveillance networks and improve mobility through new vehicles and technology-driven monitoring mechanisms.

Security analysts, he said, believe such sustained investments in infrastructure and capacity-building have long-term benefits, contributing significantly to overall stability.

# Rabri Devi Seeks Transfer of IRCTC Scam, Related Cases

**NEW DELHI**

Rabri Devi has moved Rouse Avenue Court seeking transfer of four cases, alleging bias by the presiding judge.

Former Bihar Chief Minister Rabri Devi has filed an application before the Principal District and Sessions Judge at Rouse Avenue Courts seeking the transfer of four high-profile cases from the court of Special Judge Vishal Gogne. The plea alleges that the judge has demonstrated bias and a lack of neutrality, creating what she describes as a reasonable apprehension of prejudice during the proceedings.

The transfer petition covers the IRCTC hotel scam case, the alleged cash-for-jobs case, and the corresponding money laundering matters being investigated by the Enforcement Directorate (ED). All four cases are currently being heard by Judge Gogne, who on October 13 ordered the framing of criminal conspiracy, cheating, and corruption charges against RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav, Rabri Devi, her son Tejashwi Yadav, and several others in the IRCTC scam.

According to the application, the Special Judge has appeared unduly inclined towards the prosecution, with the plea citing multiple instances from court interactions and orders to support the claim. Rabri Devi argues that this conduct undermines her confidence in receiving a fair trial. In the interest of justice, equity, and fair play, the cases need to be transferred to another competent court, the petition states, adding that her apprehension is based on specific instances rather than speculation.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, representing Rabri Devi, informed Judge Gogne on Monday that the transfer application had been filed and was expected to be heard shortly. The move comes at a challenging time for the Yadav family, following a series of legal setbacks.

The IRCTC hotel scam, central to the ongoing cases, allegedly took place between 2004 and 2009 when Lalu Prasad served as Railway Minister. Investigators claim that two IRCTC hotels were leased to a private firm in violation of norms, with prime land in Patna purportedly transferred to Lalu Prasad's family members and a benami company in exchange.

## Jharkhand civic polls to be completed by March

**RANCHI**

The long-pending elections to all 48 municipal corporations and municipal bodies in Jharkhand are set to be completed by March next year. The Hemant Soren government told the High Court on Monday that it has made all preparations for conducting elections. The State Election Commission (SEC) also submitted a sealed timeline to the High Court during the hearing on the matter on Monday.

The state government informed the court that it has completed all required formalities and handed over all documents, including OBC reservation details and population data, to the Commission.

Advocate General Rajiv Ranjan told the bench that the State Election Commission does not require any further information from the government. The SEC informed the court that it would need at least eight weeks to complete election preparations, after which the notification can be issued, and the poll process will be completed within 45 days.

Taking note of the submission, the High Court directed the Commission to conduct the elections as per the proposed schedule. The next hearing has been listed for March 30.The direction came during the hearing of a contempt petition filed by petitioners Roshni Khalkho and Reena Kumari, who sought compliance with the court's earlier order mandating timely municipal elections.

Advocate Vinod Kumar Singh presented the case on behalf of the petitioner, while Advocate Sumit Gadodia appeared for the State Election Commission.

*Tamil Nadu BJP has urged Home Minister Amit Shah to act against Udhayanidhi Stalin for calling Sanskrit a dead language.*

# BJP Petitions Amit Shah Against Udhayanidhi Stalin's Remarks

**CHENNAI**

The Tamil Nadu unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has lodged a formal complaint with Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking immediate action against Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin for his recent remarks describing Sanskrit as a dead language. The petition, submitted by BJP state spokesperson A.N.S. Prasad, alleges that Udhayanidhi's comments are derogatory, inflammatory, and violative of constitutional values.

According to the complaint, Udhayanidhi repeatedly referred to Sanskrit as a seththa mozhi (dead language) during a book-release event in Chennai. He also claimed that the Union government's promotion of Sanskrit and Hindi amounted to linguistic imposition on Tamil. The BJP has termed these statements factually incorrect and damaging to the nation's cultural and linguistic harmony.

In the letter, Prasad emphasised that Sanskrit is included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, globally recognised as a classical language, and revered by millions of Hindus as the foundation of Vedic literature and temple traditions. To publicly denigrate such a language is to attack the spirit of the Constitution and hurt the sentiments of millions, the petition states. The party argued that portraying Sanskrit as a threat to Tamil fuels a false and divisive narrative, noting that both languages have long coexisted as integral parts of India's civilisational fabric.

The complaint further warned that remarks from a senior constitutional functionary like the Deputy Chief Minister could disturb communal harmony and disrupt public order. In view of this, the BJP has urged the Home Ministry to conduct an immediate inquiry and explore legal action under IPC Sections 153A, 295A and 505, or corresponding provisions under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

## Justice J.K. Maheshwari nominated as Chairman of Supreme Court Legal Services

**NEW DELHI**

Justice J.K. Maheshwari has been nominated as the new Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee (SCLSC), according to a notification issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). The nomination was made on Sunday by former Chief Justice of India Justice Bhushan R. Gavai, in exercise of powers under Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987. In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 3A of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 (39 of 1987), the Chief Justice of India is pleased to nominate Justice Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari, Supreme Court Judge, as Chairman of the Supreme Court Legal Services Committee with effect from November 24, 2025, said the notification published in the Official Gazette by the NALSA Member Secretary.

Justice Maheshwari succeeds Justice Vikram Nath, who has recently been nominated as the NALSA Executive Chairman.

The Supreme Court Legal Services Committee plays a crucial role in ensuring access to justice for economically weaker and socially marginalised groups seeking to approach the highest court of the land.

By providing free legal aid, representation, and assistance, the SCLSC aims to uphold the Constitutional mandate under Article 39A, which obligates the State to promote justice on the basis of equal opportunity and to ensure that no citizen is denied the right to approach the apex court on grounds of lack of funds, social or economic backwardness, or any other disability.

## Vijay Sinha vows strong action against mafia after taking charge of revenue

**PATNA**

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha on Monday assumed charge of the Revenue and Land Reforms Department, announcing a tough, statewide crackdown on land-related irregularities and mafia activities. After taking charge, Sinha held a meeting with top officials and directed them to intensify action against land-grabbing networks, illegal occupations, document forgery and middlemen operating in the sector.

The minister made it clear that the department would now work with zero tolerance towards any form of land-related wrongdoing.

I warn all land mafias—if you are involved in any illegal activity, stop immediately. Strict action will begin now, he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister noted that he had briefly overseen this department earlier as well, which gave him insight into safeguarding government land and the rights of the people of Bihar.

He said the government will now focus on comprehensive reforms—from the field level to the state headquarters. Sinha added that Bihar has long suffered from three major criminal networks—the sand mafia, the liquor mafia and subsequently the land mafia.

Just as reforms have taken place in the mining department, we will also act against the white-collar individuals who patronise crime and protect land mafias, he said. Among priorities, he said, will be ensuring relief and support for small and marginal farmers by speeding up land mutation, challan orders and other land-related processes. Sinha stressed the need to bring complete transparency to zonal offices, which form the backbone of the department's day-to-day functioning.

INDIA-OMAN DEFENCE TIES

# *India and Oman Reaffirm Defence Partnership, Push Forward Military Logistics*

**NEW DELHI**

India and Oman on Monday advanced their longstanding defence partnership through comprehensive discussions focused on military logistics, maritime security, shipbuilding and capacity-building initiatives. The meeting took place between Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan and Oman's Ministry of Defence Secretary General Mohammed Bin Nasser Bin Ali Al-Zaabi, who is in New Delhi for the 13th Joint Military Cooperation Committee (JMCC) meeting.

In a statement shared on X, the Integrated Defence Staff Headquarters said the talks reaffirmed both countries' commitment to enhancing cooperation through progress on the Military Logistic Complex, greater collaboration in shipbuilding, and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) activities. The two sides also discussed strengthening training exchanges and identifying avenues for expanding defence exports.

The discussions additionally covered bolstering maritime security, improving mechanisms for border management and enabling smoother operational turnaround of Indian Navy platforms. Officials explored the need for streamlined clearances for Indian Navy and Indian Air Force flights to support the growing number of joint operational engagements between the two nations.

Earlier in the day, Dr. Al-Zaabi met Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth to review the progress of ongoing defence cooperation initiatives. The Directorate of Public Relations, Ministry of Defence, noted that both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing the partnership under a shared vision of strategic cooperation.

India and Oman share a deep defence relationship spanning joint exercises, enhanced maritime coordination, training programs and logistical collaboration. Monday's discussions signal a renewed push to expand these ties further, with both sides recognising the strategic importance of the western Indian Ocean region and the need for coordinated efforts to ensure stability, operational readiness and mutual security.

# Shivraj Chouhan urges scientists to focus on solving farmers' woes

**NEW DELHI**

Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday urged scientists to fix research priorities based on primary challenges that farmers are facing. Inaugurating the three-day 6th International Agronomy Congress (IAC–2025) here on Monday, the minister said, Agronomy is the bridge that connects scientific research with the farmer's field, and agriculture must move toward producing more with fewer resources while conserving more for future generations.

More than 1,000 scientists, policymakers, students, development partners, and industry experts from India and abroad are participating in the Congress. Scientists from several international organizations-including the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center, the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics, the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas, and the International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC)-are also attending the event.

The minister emphasised optimising soil health, water-use efficiency, biodiversity, eco-nutrition, and AI-based digital agricultural solutions. He also announced that the recommendations emerging from the Congress will be incorporated into national policies and regional action plans.

Chouhan released the IAC–2025 declaration, featuring key recommendations such as promotion of soil-carbon sequestration, water-efficient farming, scaling up AI-based digital agriculture solutions and the Agri-Stack framework.

Mainstreaming natural and regenerative agriculture models, targeted innovation programmes for youth and women farmers, and next-generation agronomy education at school and university levels also formed part of the recommendations.

QUICK READ

## Rocket propellant blast kills three children

**Karachi**

Three young boys, aged 8 to 12, died after a rocket propellant exploded while they were playing with it in Kashmore district of Sindh province, police said on Monday. The tragic incident happened near Kandhkot town. The children reportedly found the coloured propellant in nearby fields and brought it home, thinking it was a toy. According to Deputy Superintendent of Police Syed Asghar Ali Shah, it suddenly exploded when they started handling it, causing fatal injuries. Authorities are investigating the source of the explosive material.

## Indian-origin fugitive arrested in Toronto

**Ottawa**

Toronto Police have arrested 24-year-old Indian-origin man Nicholas Singh, who was on Canada's list of 25 most wanted people. Officers said he was wanted across the country for breaching parole conditions. Singh was caught on Friday and taken into custody with a gun, an extended magazine, and several bullets. Police said his arrest is a major step in ensuring public safety. Investigations are ongoing to check if he was linked to any other crimes.

## Canada changes citizenship rules helping many families

**Ottawa**

Canada is moving to modernise its citizenship-by-descent law, bringing relief to many Indian-origin families. Bill C-3, which amends the Citizenship Act, has received royal assent, the government said on Friday. The new law aims to make citizenship rules more inclusive while protecting the value of Canadian citizenship. Once it comes into effect, people born earlier who lost eligibility due to the first-generation limit or old rules may finally receive Canadian citizenship. Officials said thousands could benefit from this change.

# South Africans praise PM as G20 boosts goodwill

### Prime Minister Narendra Modi's South Africa visit drew widespread admiration online for his active participation

**JOHANNESBURG**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's three-day visit to South Africa for the G20 Leaders' Summit and the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) meeting received strong praise from South African social media users. Many expressed admiration for his energetic participation, continuous updates, and friendly engagement throughout the international events. On platform X, several users wrote that India had shown great support for South Africa and the African continent during the summit, calling Modi's presence warm and meaningful.

Some South Africans playfully called him the "official influencer" of the G20 South Africa Summit, remarking that he kept everyone informed with regular posts about his meetings and activities. They said his updates helped people understand what was happening inside the high-level talks.

His leadership and India's role were also appreciated. One user noted that the world's biggest democracy was representing the hopes of over 1.4 billion people. Others praised his dedication, saying he looked committed to strengthening relations and striking useful agreements with different nations.

Many thanked India for its long-standing ties with South Africa and said Modi's visit felt like a visit from family, given the large Indian-origin community living in the country. Some also admired his energy and communication skills, saying he brought positivity to the summit.

Prime Minister Modi returned to India on Monday after attending both major meetings. At G20, he stressed the need for safe and people-focused use of artificial intelligence. During the IBSA meeting, he urged urgent reform of the United Nations Security Council to improve fairness in global decision-making.

Canada's Foreign Minister Anita Anand joined Prime Minister Mark Carney at the G20 Summit for talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, launching negotiations for a comprehensive Canada-India trade agreement. Anand said the deal could boost bilateral trade beyond USD 70 billion and create major economic opportunities. Modi and Carney also discussed stronger cooperation in defence, technology, space, energy, and supply chains. Both leaders agreed to push for a high-ambition trade pact, aiming to double trade by 2030 as relations improve between the two nations.

# Trump escalates attacks as political pressure mounts

**SYDNEY**

US President Donald Trump is becoming more aggressive in his public attacks as political pressure on him increases. After Congress ordered the Justice Department to release all Jeffrey Epstein files, Trump quickly tried to divert public attention. Over four days, he met FIFA President Gianni Infantino to promise faster visas for some fans for next year's World Cup. He also welcomed Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and defended him strongly when reporters asked about the 2018 killing of a journalist in Istanbul.

Trump then targeted his political rivals with extreme language. When six Democratic lawmakers posted a video reminding military and intelligence officials that they must reject illegal orders, Trump reacted angrily. He called their message "seditious behaviour" and said they should be punished "by death." His strong words helped push the Epstein issue out of the spotlight.

**US President Donald Trump is using harsh attacks and distractions as polls fall, criticism rises, and worries grow inside his own Republican Party about his leadership and power.**

Behind the scenes, Trump is facing troubling signs. His approval rating has dropped to just 40 percent in a recent poll. Many Americans are unhappy with rising costs of food, housing, health care, and insurance. His claim that the US economy is the "hottest" in the world is not convincing voters. Recent election wins in Virginia and New Jersey have also encouraged Democrats ahead of next year's crucial midterm polls.

Democrats fear he could misuse military power if he feels threatened. Trump has already deployed the National Guard in US cities, and a judge ruled one action illegal. He also shows no interest in negotiating with Democrats.

Even some Republicans are uneasy. Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene, once one of his strongest supporters, has begun criticising him for ignoring his "America First" promise. These cracks suggest Trump's control over his party is not as firm as before.

## Gun attack on FC headquarters leaves 3 personnel dead

**PESHAWAR**

Unidentified gunmen stormed the Pakistan Frontier Constabulary (FC) Headquarters on Saddar Main Road in Peshawar on Monday, leaving three security personnel dead and plunging the high-security zone into lockdown. Local media reported that the attack began with a suicide blast at the main gate, followed by an IED explosion at a nearby motorcycle stand.

## Russia's strikes in Kharkiv kills 4 and injures 17 others

**KYIV**

Four people were killed and 17 others injured, including two children, after Russia launched a major overnight strike on Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. The attack took place while peace discussions were underway to end the ongoing war.

Kharkiv Mayor Igor Terekhov said the missiles hit three districts — Shevchenkivskyi, Saltivskyi and Kholodnohirskyi — causing serious damage. He confirmed that 40 residential buildings were affected, along with local businesses and warehouses. Rescue teams searched the damaged areas, while doctors provided treatment to the injured. Two people remain in hospital in critical condition.

Mayor Terekhov expressed deep sorrow for the victims and described the attack as "another crime by Russia". Images shared on Telegram showed destroyed homes, burned vehicles and shattered windows across the hit neighborhoods.

The violent strike comes at a time when Ukraine is increasing diplomatic efforts to stop the war. In Geneva, a Ukrainian delegation is working with the United States on a new peace framework aimed at restoring Ukraine's sovereignty and securing long-term protection. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the early proposals from the US appear to include key points important for Ukraine's national security. He stressed that the focus of the talks is to finally end the war and save lives.

*Karachi residents protest at Sakhi Hasan hydrant amid severe water shortage*

# TTAP launches 3-day protest against proposed 27th Amendment

**KARACHI**

The opposition alliance Tehreek Tahafuz Ayeen-i-Pakistan (TTAP) has announced a three-day public mobilisation in early December to protest the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment. The drive will begin in Kamo Shaheed, Ghotki, and end in Karachi. The plan was finalised during a key meeting of TTAP's Sindh chapter, chaired by Syed Zain Shah. Leaders from PTI, Majlis Wahdat-i-Muslimeen, Sindh United Party, PkMAP and other allied groups attended the meeting.

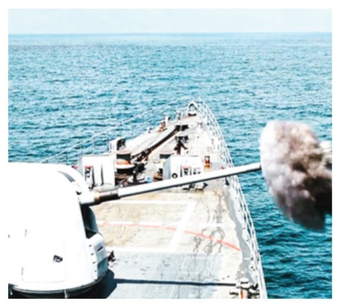
According to a statement issued after the meeting, the campaign will pass through several major cities before reaching Karachi. The alliance praised the people of Sindh for observing Black Day on November 21 and appreciated lawyers nationwide for their protests against the amendment.

Speaking to the media, Zain Shah said the public was already suffering due to unemployment, rising prices and economic struggles. He said the 27th Amendment was an attack on the Constitution and the rule of law. Shah strongly criticised the use of Section 144 across Sindh after TTAP announced a rally in Hyderabad, saying it proved the government feared public gatherings.

He warned that attempts to suppress public voice or form governments through an "unfair mandate" would not be accepted. PTI leader Haleem Adil Sheikh also spoke at the meeting. He said the 27th Amendment had weakened the independence of the judiciary. He added that only a movement powered by ordinary people could stop policies that harmed their rights. He also criticised the continued imprisonment of PTI founder Imran Khan, calling it unjust.

TTAP leaders said they expect strong participation during the December drive as they continue their campaign against the amendment.

Residents in Karachi's District Central protested at the Sakhi Hasan hydrant on Sunday against a serious water shortage. People from Nusrat Bhutto Colony and nearby areas stopped tanker operations, demanding water for their neighbourhoods first. They raised slogans against the Karachi Water and Sewerage Corporation (KWSC) and the provincial government before peacefully dispersing. Officials said repeated shutdowns at the North-East Karachi Pumping Station caused the shortage. KWSC claimed power failures created a major shortfall but said supply has now improved and steps are being taken to strengthen the system.



## Taiwan reports surge in Chinese military activity

**TAIPEI**

Taiwan's Ministry of National Defence said it detected eight Chinese aircraft sorties, five naval vessels, and one official ship near its waters by 6 am on Monday. The ministry said six of the aircraft crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's southwestern and eastern Air Defence Identification Zones. Taiwan's forces monitored the situation and responded.

On Sunday, Taiwan recorded a similar incident, with eight Chinese aircraft, six naval vessels and one official ship detected. In that case also, six sorties crossed the median line and entered Taiwan's northern and southwestern identification zones.

Taiwan has accused China of increasing pressure as the island strengthens its military and national security systems to prevent infiltration. The repeated crossings of the median line have raised concerns about escalating military threats in the region.

Meanwhile, Taiwan's Presidential Office accused China of trying to raise tensions with Japan for political gains. The warning came after China announced live-fire missile drills in the Yellow Sea, scheduled from Tuesday to Thursday, according to China's Maritime Safety Administration.

China also issued a travel advisory to its citizens, claiming increased crime risks in Japan. This move is widely viewed as a reaction to recent comments made by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi, who warned that China poses a security threat over Taiwan. Ties between China and Japan have worsened sharply. Beijing has raised the issue at the United Nations, saying Tokyo made misleading statements regarding China's position on Taiwan.

SU DO KU

Brain-Bender: Can You Solve It?

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| 3 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 |
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| 2 | 6 | 8 | 5 | 4 | 7 | 9 | 3 | 1 |
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Solutions to Yesterday's puzzle

**Fill a 9×9 grid with numbers so that each row, column and 3×3 section contain all of the digits between 1 and 9.**

AFGHAN REFUGEES DEPORTED

# *6.5K Afghan refugees deported from Iran and Pak in a day*

**KABUL**

More than 6,500 Afghan refugees were forcibly deported from Iran and Pakistan in a single day, a Taliban official said on Monday. Taliban Deputy Spokesperson Hamdullah Fitrat shared a report on X stating that 1,200 families, totalling 6,532 people, returned to Afghanistan on Sunday. Refugees entered through five major border crossings, including Pul-i-Abresham in Nimroz, Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Bahramcha in Helmand, Islam Qala in Herat, and Torkham in Nangarhar.

Fitrat added that 1,492 families, consisting of 7,695 people, were transported to their home areas, while 1,387 people received humanitarian support. Telecommunication operators also distributed 1,294 SIM cards to those arriving. He further noted that 11,855 Afghan refugees were forced back from Pakistan and Iran on Saturday.

Meanwhile, resistance against deportations is growing. Around 400 Afghan nationals, including well-known artists and their families, recently approached the Peshawar High Court to stop their forced return. They argued it violates the non-refoulment principle, which protects people from being sent back to danger.

The joint petition, seeks permission for the group to continue living in Pakistan as refugees. Petitioners such as artist Zakiya Dunya Ghazal said they fear persecution in Afghanistan, where the Taliban have banned music and targeted performers. The petition cites a 2024 High Court ruling that protected other vulnerable Afghan groups.

Pakistan's Federal Interior Ministry and several key officials have been named in the case. The petitioners stressed that Pakistan's repatriation policy goes against UNHCR agreements and the country's own commitments to international refugee protections.

## QUICK READ

### Adani Electricity announces up to 60% off on appliances

**Mumbai**

Adani Electricity on Monday launched a 'special appliance offer' for its customers, enabling them to purchase a wide range of home and kitchen appliances at 60 per cent discounts. The offer is part of the company's commitment to providing value-added services and promoting sustainability and will enable customers to upgrade their homes with modern appliances. As a valued Adani Electricity customer, now is the perfect time to upgrade your home. This special offer is designed to facilitate our customers' plans to buy the best products at the best price. We are moving beyond just supply to provide value-added services that tangibly benefit our customers' wallets and their quality of life.

### Sensex, Nifty slip amid volatile trade

**Mumbai**

Indian share markets closed lower on Monday after a volatile trading session, even as global markets showed some buying interest. The Sensex slipped 331.21 points, or 0.39 per cent, to end the day at 84,900.71. The Nifty also fell, finishing 108.65 points, or 0.42 per cent, lower at 25,959.5. Domestic institutions continued to absorb dips, but the structure weakened as the index closed below 26,000, opening room for a slide toward 25,800–25,750, analysts said. A move back above 26,150 is essential to revive momentum and retest the all-time high of 26,277, they added. Among the Sensex stocks, Infosys.

# TRAI crackdown: Disconnects 21 lakh mobile numbers

TRAI has escalated its anti-spam crackdown by disconnecting millions of numbers while urging citizens to report suspicious communication responsibly

**NEW DELHI**

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched a strong offensive against spam and fraud in the telecom ecosystem, disconnecting more than 21 lakh mobile numbers and blacklisting nearly one lakh entities over the past year, the Ministry of Communications said on Monday. The regulator stated that this large-scale action was made possible primarily through complaints filed by citizens, who used official channels to report suspicious activity.

According to TRAI, a common misconception persists among users that blocking unwanted numbers on their devices is sufficient to curb spam. However, blocking only hides the number on a user's phone and does nothing to stop scammers from targeting others. To counter this, TRAI has urged citizens to report spam and fraudulent communication through the official TRAI DND App, which enables telecom service providers to trace the origin of such calls and permanently disconnect the involved numbers.

The Authority highlighted that lakhs of users have contributed to this crackdown by actively reporting spam messages and calls. Public participation, it emphasised, remains crucial in building a safer and more reliable telecom environment. TRAI has advised people to download the DND App from official app stores and use it to submit complaints instead of simply blocking numbers.

In addition to reporting spam, TRAI reminded users to avoid sharing personal, financial or banking details over calls, messages or social media. Any threatening or suspicious communication should be immediately disconnected. Cases of cyber fraud can also be reported to the National Cybercrime Helpline at 1930 or via the cybercrime.gov.in portal. Telecom-related fraud attempts may further be flagged through Sanchar Saathi's Chakshu feature.

# PM hails labour reforms as key to future-ready economy

**NEW DELHI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday emphasised the far-reaching impact of the government's transformative labour reforms, stating that they are shaping a future-ready economy and strengthening India's integration into the global value chain. In a post shared by the PMO India on X, the government asserted that the world now recognises India as a trusted global partner, with the new labour codes reflecting a commitment to simplification, women's empowerment and an increasingly competitive economic environment.

The post referenced an article by Labour and Employment Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who detailed the implementation of four new Labour Codes on November 21. These Codes replace 29 outdated labour laws and aim to bring clarity, uniformity and modernity to India's labour governance structure. Mandaviya noted that the reforms are both pro-worker and pro-growth, providing a strong base for universal social security, timely wages, safer workplaces and formal inclusion of gig and platform workers. He added that the Codes also advance the empowerment of Yuva Shakti and Nari Shakti.

Mandaviya wrote that India had long grappled with sluggish economic growth, systemic corruption and an absence of sincere efforts toward job creation and worker welfare. Frequent gheraos and bandhs often disrupted industries, discouraging investments and eroding confidence. He criticised past governments for limiting labour welfare to political rhetoric without meaningful action.

A turning point emerged when Prime Minister Modi invoked the principle of Shramev Jayate from the Red Fort, signalling a renewed national consciousness that placed dignity of labour at the core of development. Mandaviya argued that this shift was long overdue, as India's labour laws—rooted in the 1920s to 1950s—stemmed from a colonial legacy and were no longer aligned with a rapidly evolving global labour landscape defined by digitalisation, flexible work and gig economies.

*Mansukh Mandaviya says newly implemented labour codes will strengthen workers' rights and accelerate India's self-reliant growth journey.*

## Min hails labour reforms as key driver of Atmanirbhar Bharat

**NEW DELHI**

Union Minister for Labour & Employment and Youth Affairs & Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, on Monday said that the government's historic labour reforms will provide strong momentum to the vision of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Sharing his newspaper article on X, the minister highlighted that the implementation of the four new labour codes marks a major transformation in India's labour governance framework.

He noted that on November 21, the government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi operationalised all four codes, replacing 29 outdated labour laws in what he described as a landmark initiative.

Mandaviya said the reforms strengthen workforce rights and lay the foundation for a developed and future-ready India. The new labour framework ensures timely payment of wages, guarantees universal social security and provides safer, more dignified workplaces. It also expands protections for gig and platform workers while creating greater opportunities for women and young people participating in India's growing economy. He reiterated that the Codes are both pro-worker and pro-growth, offering clarity, fairness and modern regulatory support for emerging work models.

Guided by the Prime Minister's vision, the reforms represent a significant milestone in India's journey toward becoming an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat, the minister observed. He added that extensive consultations with workers and industry leaders shaped the design of the codes, underscoring the need for fairness, respect and balanced growth in the workplace. The labour codes, he said, harmonise employer expectations with worker welfare, placing human dignity at the centre of national development.

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal also endorsed the reforms, describing them as a crucial step in empowering India's workforce under the ethos of Shramev Jayate. He said the new labour codes will enhance ease of doing business, support workers' rights and accelerate India's progress toward becoming a global economic powerhouse.

## S. Korea to form task force for AI cooperation with UAE

**SEOUL**

South Korea's presidential artificial intelligence (AI) committee said on Monday it will launch a task force to advance AI cooperation with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The task force will be headed jointly by the presidential secretary for AI policy and future planning, and vice chairman of the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), serving as a follow-up to bilateral agreements signed on the sidelines of a summit between South Korean President Lee Jae Myung and UAE President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan last week, according to the committee. The task force will be tasked with establishing a joint public-private implementation system to drive outcomes of the partnership with the UAE and present substantive investment projects within the year.

## Corporates in India posts strongest quarter since 2023

**NEW DELHI**

Indian companies delivered their best quarter since September 2023, with latest results indicating that the recent run of earnings downgrades might be over, a report said on Monday. As many as 69 per cent of firms either beat or met expectations, with total sales up 6 per cent year on year, the report from HSBC Global Investment Research said, adding that it supports our overweight on Indian equities. Supported by lower inflation, rate cuts and income tax moderation, the firm cited a consensus estimate of 10 per cent earnings growth in FY26 and 14 per cent in FY27.

Financials are the biggest contributor to the recovery, as margins have bottomed and signs of an uptick in loans are now visible, the report said. In Q2 FY26, net profits of the companies rose 13 per cent year on year, while excluding commodities and one offs, net income grew 8 per cent, marking the sixth consecutive quarter of single digit growth.

Bank profits moderated on net interest margin (NIM) pressure, but credit cost came down, when large banks surprised on upside, leading to a slight upgrade in FY26 earnings.

Consumer goods firms were impacted by GST disruptions, but many saw margin recovery, while IT firms outperformed aided by a weaker currency and is poised for demand recovery, the research firm said.

Cement and paint firms benefited from weaker competition in the sector, the pharma sales were strong, while hospitals faced margin pressure.

## India's capex landscape reflects signs of optimism: Report

**NEW DELHI**

India's capex landscape in the fiscal year, so far, has reflected signs of optimism, a report stated on Monday, saying the centre and state government capex continued to stay healthy, supporting the overall investment scenario. The encouraging aspect is the revival in capex by Indian corporations. Furthermore, the order books data for a representative sample of capital goods firms, which is a key gauge for future capital expenditure, suggest a favourable outlook for capex.This momentum is expected to generate positive spillover effects across other industries, supporting the broader capex cycle in the economy, CareEdge Ratings said in its report. According to the report, capex in sectors such as oil and gas and steel is expected to rise in FY26.

Public sector investment has remained upbeat so far this year, with capex by the centre and state governments (aggregate capex of top 19 states) registering strong double-digit growth. On the corporate capex front, the aggregate capex of 1,899 listed non-financial companies recorded a growth of 11 per cent, rising to Rs 9.4 lakh crore in FY25. The report noted that the uptick seen in investment announcements and completions during H1 FY26 (CMIE data) signals improving investment sentiment.

While Centre's Capex has been healthy, we have also seen an improvement in aggregate state capex in H1 FY26. Moreover, capex by India Inc is showing improvement, led by sectors like Oil and Gas, Power, Telecom and Auto, said Rajani Sinha, Chief Economist, CareEdge Ratings.

The order book of capital goods companies is showing healthy momentum, giving us optimism on the capex outlook, Sinha added. India's investment-to-GDP ratio has averaged 30.3 per cent over the last four years, as against the pre-pandemic average of 28.6 per cent (FY16-19).

## RBI Guv signals possible repo rate cut in Dec

**MUMBAI**

RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra indicated that there is scope for a repo rate cut in December to support economic growth, citing favorable macroeconomic indicators. He noted that inflation has eased, providing room for the central bank to focus on growth while maintaining price stability. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will decide on any rate changes.

Malhotra highlighted that the RBI's dual mandate balances growth and inflation. With FY26 inflation forecast lowered to 2.6% and GDP growth projected at 6.8%, analysts, including Morgan Stanley, expect a 25-basis-point cut, though the RBI may adopt a cautious, wait-and-watch approach before final action.

## S. Korean govt to launch AI platform for farm products in 2026

**SEOUL**

The government said on Monday it plans to launch an information and price comparison platform for agricultural products that is powered by artificial intelligence (AI) next year as part of its broader effort to adopt AI-based public services. At the inaugural meeting of a new government consultation group consisting of science and technology-related ministers, including the minister of science and ICT, the government unveiled 10 AI projects aimed at improving everyday public services in areas that include consumption, health care and safety.

Four key initiatives, including the price comparison platform, will each receive 10 billion won ($6.79 million) in funding over the next two years, while the remaining projects will receive 3 billion won each.

As the first project, the government will create an AI consumption information platform for agricultural products, providing real-time price movements and recommending the best places to purchase items based on a consumer's location. The platform will also suggest alternative products when prices surge due to supply shortages.

The platform is expected to begin test operations in the second half of next year.

The government will also introduce an AI Safety Guardian for Human-Applied Products app, scheduled to launch in 2027.

The service will display the ingredients and safety information for food, pharmaceuticals, medical devices and cosmetics while offering real-time licensing information, consultation support and legal guidance.

Another project will develop an AI guide for national heritage sites, providing AI-generated commentary services for domestic and international visitors without the constraints of time, location or language.

In addition, the government plans to establish an AI tax adviser service to assist taxpayers who struggle to receive timely consultation during peak filing periods, offering AI-based phone and chatbot support.

**ICONIC CITY VISION**

# *CIDCO unveils new 'Iconic City Development Policy'*

**MUMBAI**

The City and Industrial Development Corporation (CIDCO) has launched an ambitious 'Iconic City Development Policy' aimed at fostering globally benchmarked, concept-based urban districts across Navi Mumbai. The policy, approved by the state cabinet last week, is positioned as a strategic response to the imminent commissioning of the Navi Mumbai International Airport and the region's rapid rise as an emerging growth hub.

Government sources said CIDCO envisions creating landmark precincts that could give Navi Mumbai a distinctive global identity, drawing inspiration from successful international models such as Marina Bay Sands in Singapore and the business districts of Dubai and Abu Dhabi. By leveraging its extensive land banks through a regulated, revenue-sharing development rights framework, the Corporation aims to facilitate the development of premium townships, modern business hubs and tourism-centric districts—while safeguarding public interests and ensuring

long-term land value appreciation. Currently, CIDCO follows a system of leasing individual plots through open auctions, allowing private developers to build independently based on lease terms and planning norms. While suitable for routine construction, this piecemeal approach has hindered efforts to achieve cohesive, large-scale urban design across contiguous land parcels. Recognising this gap, CIDCO has framed the new policy in alignment with Maharashtra's Integrated Township Policy, enabling comprehensive and unified master planning over large tracts of land.

The 'Iconic City Development Policy' is designed to support distinctive, concept-driven urban projects featuring diverse skylines, integrated public plazas, world-class amenities and seamless connectivity. By encouraging collaborative development over isolated plot-based construction, CIDCO aims to transform Navi Mumbai into a modern, internationally competitive urban centre linked closely to the new airport's economic potential.

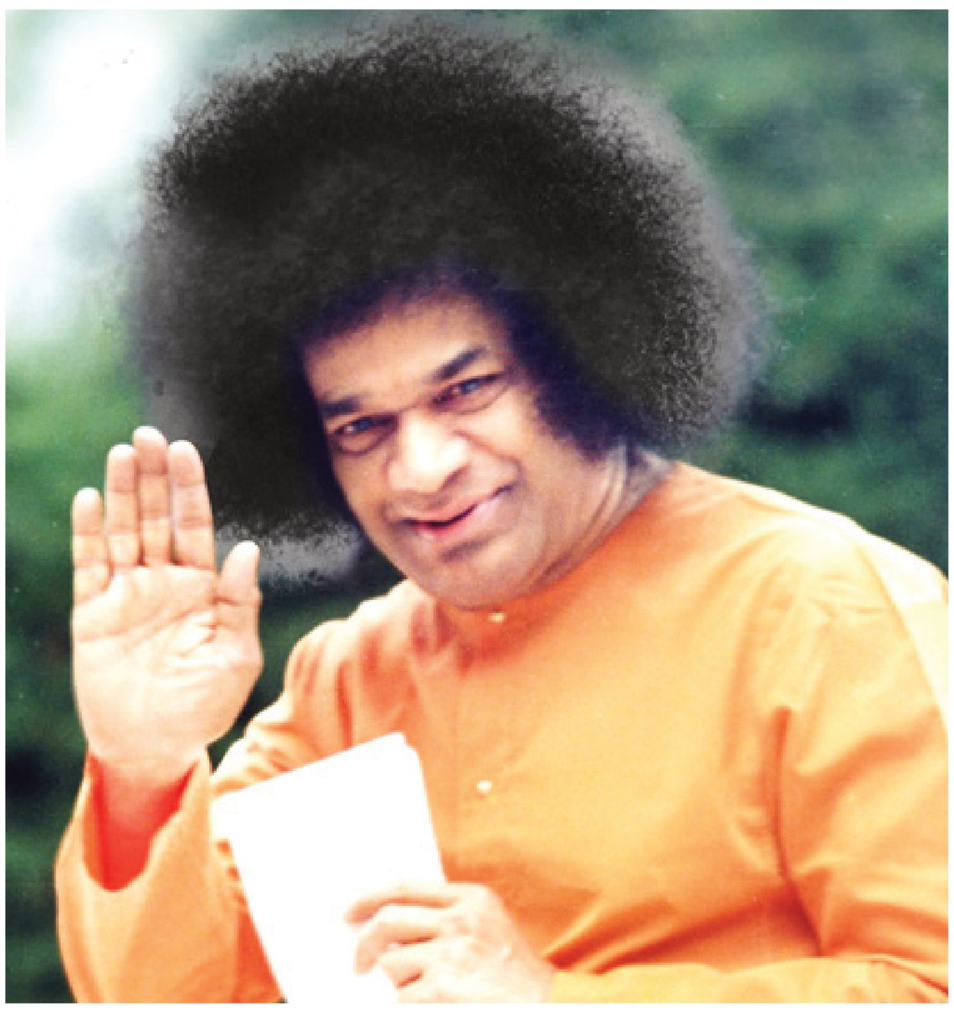
Officials believe the policy will not only elevate the city's architectural identity but also catalyse investments, attract global enterprises and enhance quality of life for residents as Navi Mumbai positions itself as one of India's most futuristic urban destinations.

## Govt reiterates consequences of IMEI tampering

**MUMBAI**

To protect citizens and safeguard telecom networks amid the rapid growth of mobile connectivity, the government on Monday once again cautioned against tampering and misuse of unique device identifiers. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) reiterated that it reminds all citizens of the strict legal provisions under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, that prohibit altering or using devices with tampered IMEI numbers. With the rapid growth of mobile connectivity in India, misuse of telecommunication identifiers like the International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) number of devices has become a serious concern, DoT said in a statement. DoT has issued a strong reminder to citizens regarding the strict legal provisions under the Telecommunications Act, 2023, which make it a punishable offence to alter or use devices with tampered IMEI numbers. The Act contains comprehensive measures to safeguard telecom security, and any manipulation of telecommunication identifiers — particularly IMEI numbers — falls under serious legal scrutiny.

# The life and legacy of Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba



**Dr S SATHYANARAYANAN**

In 1926, from the tiny remote village of Puttaparthy in Andhra Pradesh emerged a spiritual luminary, whose influence transcended geographical and religious boundaries. This is a brief story of that child, named Sathyanarayana Raju, who would become known to the world as Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba, as his devotees prepare to celebrate his 100th birthday on November 23, 2025.

Even as a child, Sathya, as he was commonly called, captivated his companions by performing what they called 'minor miracles', creating trinkets out of thin air with a wave of his hand. This playful display of divine power was a prelude to the profound spiritual mission that unfolded.

At the age of 14, when studying in 8th class, he threw his books and announced himself as the reincarnation of Sai Baba, the saint of Shirdi, who had left his mortal coil around eight years before Sathyanarayana Raju was born. He announced his arrival as a result of the prayers of his devotees. Word of his wisdom and compassion spread like wildfire, drawing seekers and devotees from far and wide, all seeking solace, guidance, and a glimpse of the divine. He announced his mission in a letter to his elder brother, stating his task to foster all mankind, ensure bliss for all people, his vow to lead all who stray away from the straight path and redeem them. He described his aim of removing the suffering of the poor and grant them what they lack.

No longer just a local phenomenon, Sai Baba's message began to resonate with a global audience. He then shifted to a separate residence in Puttaparthy, away from his family members. His fame spread far and wide, and people started coming to him from distant places. As his fame grew, the scope of his mission also grew. He became known as Sai Baba and his act of materialising 'vibhuthi' (sacred ash) became his trademark. Singing bhajans became a common practice among his followers.

Baba delinked spirituality from rituals and connected it to societal service. His devotees began initiating service activities or getting involved in them across the country. Gradually, the number of his followers grew into millions, and people began coming to Puttaparthy from all over the world.

Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba initiated several social welfare projects, including the establishment of educational institutions, hospitals, and two super speciality hospitals that provide completely free treatment to this day. One of his most notable projects is the gigantic water supply project that supplies drinking water to around 700 villages in Anantapur district and a few other water projects in other parts of India. He also established several spiritual-cum-community centres across the country and a few in other parts of the world.

His teachings, in the form of discourses and over 100 books, emphasise the philosophy of Vedanta and stress selfless service and 'Namasmarana' (constant chanting of God's name) as the means to salvation. His teachings are simple and easy to understand. His philosophy was distilled into simple, powerful maxims like "Help ever, hurt never", "Love all, serve all", and "Service to man is service to God". He also taught about the unity of religions and the common values espoused by different religions. Baba said, "I have not come to form a new religion. I have come to make a Hindu a better Hindu, a Christian a better Christian, and a Muslim a better Muslim." Baba has given five human values, namely, Sathya (truth), Dharma (righteousness), Shanthi (peace), Prema (love), and Ahimsa (nonviolence), as guideposts for his followers. In this conflict-ridden world bereft of peace, his teachings have given hope and peace to millions of devotees actively engaged in spiritual and service activities inspired by Baba. Baba has left a permanent mark on humanity through his timeless teachings and message of love and service. The timeless message that he has left behind, the millions of lives that he transformed by instilling values in them, and the numerous institutions that he built during his lifetime and continue to serve humanity are the legacy that Bhagawan Sri Sathya Sai Baba has left behind.

Today, his mission not only continues but continues to expand through his spiritual successor, Sadguru Madhusudan Sai, through the 'One World One Family' (OWOF) Mission from Muddenahalli in Chikkaballapur, near Bengaluru.

*The author works as an Associate Professor at Sri Sathya Sai University for Human Excellence

### Impact of his work

Baba has left behind a legacy of around 100 schools teaching value education, two super speciality hospitals, and several water projects that have improved the lives of millions of people. The impact of his work, instead of numbers, can be judged by the smile on the patient's face after a cardiac surgery, the smile of parents after their child has undergone a successful paediatric cardiac surgery that is completely free of cost, or the convenience that a villager has, as he does not have to walk long distances to fetch drinking water. Similarly, the alumni of his educational institutions have made an impact in their work environment, wherever they are, through their discipline, dedication, and integrity. The author has been a student of his university and later served in his institution, and had the opportunity to witness the impact of Baba from close quarters, having seen countless individuals transformed due to the touch of Baba.

Water resource management is a cornerstone of India's approach to sustainable development, with dams playing a vital role in striking a balance between agricultural needs, human consumption, industrial growth, and climate adaptation. As one of the world's most populous countries, India's quest to efficiently harness its water resources has led to the construction of more than 5,000 large dams, each serving as key infrastructure for irrigation, flood control, and drinking water supply.

**The Water Resource Challenge in India**

India faces persistent challenges in managing freshwater. Rapid population growth, erratic rainfall, and expanding urban areas strain supplies and put pressure on the existing water infrastructure. The total utilizable water available annually is about 1,123 km³, comprising 690 km³ of surface water from rivers and reservoirs, with the rest derived from groundwater sources. Dams have emerged as an essential tool to store water during times of rainfall excess and release it for multiple uses during dry periods, providing a buffer against seasonal and spatial variability.

**Dams as Instruments of Irrigation and Agriculture**

At the forefront of water resource management is the role of dams in agricultural irrigation. Over 91% of available water in India is used for irrigation. Dams enable year-round cultivation by stabilizing water deliveries, transforming regions that historically depended on unpredictable monsoons into productive agricultural belts. Major structures such as the Bhakra Nangal and Hirakud dams have not only increased crop yields but also stabilized rural incomes, thereby reinforcing food security for millions.

- Dams allow for regulated water supply to farms, reducing the risk of crop failure due to drought.
- Rain-fed regions become suitable for high-value, water-intensive crops like wheat, rice, and sugarcane.
- Modern irrigation canals fed by dam reservoirs form lifelines for agricultural belts throughout Punjab, Haryana, Tamil Nadu, and more.

**Drinking Water, Industrial Uses, and Urban Supply**

Beyond agriculture, dams are fundamental for municipal and industrial drinking water supply. Cities such as Chennai, Hyderabad, and Delhi depend heavily on nearby dam reservoirs for potable water. The regulated flows ensure reliable delivery even as urban demands escalate. Industries use dam water for manufacturing processes, cooling, and cleaning, supporting economic activity and employment.

- Reservoirs built by dams guarantee consistent water availability during droughts and summer heatwaves.
- Dams serve as central sources for treatment plants, reaching millions of households and supporting human health.

**Managing Floods and River Hydrology**

In India's monsoon-driven climate, floods pose a recurring threat to lives, agriculture, and infrastructure. Dams help control and moderate river flows, reducing downstream flood risk by storing excess water during heavy rains and releasing it gradually. Large reservoirs thus act as safety buffers for deltaic regions, including the Mahanadi and Krishna river systems, protecting communities and minimizing economic losses.

**Innovation, Policy Reforms, and Future Directions**

To enhance water resource management, India has adopted progressive policies and technological interventions:

- Real-time monitoring: The National Hydrology Project enhances water monitoring, data collection, and management capacity.
- Climate change adaptation: New dam designs incorporate flood forecasting and hydrological modeling to cope with changing rainfall and extreme weather.
- Regulatory oversight: Creation of institutional bodies such as the National Dam Safety Authority improves compliance and maintains dam integrity.

Despite their many advantages, dams in India are not without criticism. Concerns about environmental impacts, displacement, submergence of arable land, and sometimes inefficient water distribution are ongoing issues[13][9]. Sustainable water management means striking a balance: improving dam operations, investing in eco-friendly technologies, and incorporating community needs in planning and execution.

**Conclusion**

In summary, dams are indispensable to India's water resource management strategy. They provide lifelines to millions by steadying agricultural output, delivering potable water, and curbing seasonal floods. Ongoing innovation in monitoring, adaptive planning for climate change, and policy reform are critical to leveraging dams for a sustainable and water-secure future.

# ICJ director Dr Binnish meets Guv, pushes for journalist safety

**BENGALURU**

International Council for Journalists (ICJ) director, Dr Binnish Thomas, said it's a shame that India is ranked 151 in the media freedom index at the international level. Journalists here are working in an environment of insecurity.

He further said the Central Government has been urged to bring in a bill in the Parliament to protect their rights of journalist. In this regard, he has submitted request to Karnataka Governor Thawar Chand Gehlot, seeking his support for the proposed bill.

He expressed confidence that the Centre will present the Journalists' Protection Bill in the winter session of the Parliament to be held in December.

Dr Thomas's persistent struggle for the rights of journalists has earned him the title 'Journalist Advocate'.

# ITALY CLINCHES THIRD STRAIGHT DAVIS CUP CROWN

## Italy's achievement puts them in historic company

**BOLOGNA**

Italy continued its remarkable dominance of men's team tennis by securing a 2-0 victory over Spain to claim a fourth Davis Cup title — and its third in a row — without the services of star player Jannik Sinner. Matteo Berrettini and Flavio Cobolli stepped up in the final, delivering superb singles wins to give Italy an unassailable lead and cementing their place as the era's standout Davis Cup force. Berrettini set the tone with a composed 6-3, 6-4 win over Pablo Carreno Busta, using his powerful serve and forehand to keep Spain under pressure from the outset. Cobolli then completed the mission with a spirited comeback, rallying from a set down to defeat Jaume Munar 1-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5 in a gripping contest that showcased his growing maturity on the big stage.

Italy's achievement puts them in historic company — the first team since the United States' five-title streak from 1968 to 1972 to win three consecutive Davis Cup championships. The triumph is even more notable given the absence of second-ranked Sinner, who led the team to titles in the past two years but chose to skip the event to focus on his 2026 preparations.

Spain, appearing in their first final since 2019, also entered the tie without their biggest star, world No. 1 Carlos Alcaraz, reducing their chances of challenging the defending champions.

With a deep squad and consistent performances across all rubbers, Italy reaffirmed its status as the world's most complete team in the competition.

**Italy's Davis Cup Titles**
- 1976
- 2023
- 2024
- 2025

**2025 Final Results**
- Berrettini def. Carreno Busta: 6-3, 6-4
- Cobolli def. Munar: 1-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5

**Three-Peat Champions Since 1968**
- United States (1968–72)
- Italy (2023–25)

# McCullum urges England fans to keep faith after Perth collapse

**PERTH**

England head coach Brendon McCullum has urged supporters to "keep the faith" despite his team's crushing defeat in the opening Ashes Test, insisting that there will be no deviation from their aggressive style of play. England slumped to an eight-wicket loss inside two days in Perth, leaving them facing an uphill battle to regain the urn with four Tests still remaining, the next a day-night encounter in Brisbane on December 4.

England's ultra-attacking "Bazball" approach unravelled dramatically as repeated batting collapses and Travis Head's blistering 69-ball century consigned them to yet another disappointment on Australian soil. The visitors were heavily criticised back home after Saturday's defeat,

**England coach Brendon McCullum calls for calm and belief after heavy Perth defeat**

but McCullum maintained that the team must stay committed to their philosophy.

"Keep the faith," he told reporters, acknowledging the backlash. "Sometimes we get beaten and it looks pretty ugly, but this mentality allows us to believe in our abilities. There are times we don't get it right, but sticking to our approach gives us the best chance. Being one down doesn't change what we believe in. We have to stay calm, stay together, and plot our way back, as we have done before."

England have not won an Ashes series in Australia since 2010–11 and have endured a dire run since, with 14 defeats and no victories in their last 16 Tests there. Perth offered a golden chance to break that streak when England reached 160–5 before losing five wickets for 12 runs to be dismissed for 172. They regained control by bowling out Australia for 132, and at 65–1 in their second innings, seemed poised for a strong lead, only to collapse again and set Australia a modest 205, which the hosts chased down comfortably.

# Star-studded squads unveiled as WTL gears up for India debut

**BENGALURU**

Excitement is building across India as the World Tennis League (WTL) — billed as "The Greatest Show on Court" — prepares to make its first appearance in the country from December 17 to 20 at Bengaluru's SM Krishna Tennis Stadium. Licensed and managed by Iconik Sports and Events Ltd., the 2025 edition will feature four franchise teams backed by dynamic owners and powered by an impressive mix of global tennis icons and India's premier players.

The defending champions Game Changers Falcons return under the ownership of Amandeep Singh (Game Changers FZCO). Joining them are VB Realty Hawks, owned by film producer Vashu Bhagnani; Aussie Mavericks Kites, led by Dr. Umed Shekhawat, Amit Sahni and Kewal Kalra; and AOS Eagles, backed by AOS Sports Tournament, Dubai, and helmed by Satender Pal Chhabra.

Each team has assembled a high-impact squad for the four-day showdown. The Falcons, coached by John-Laffnie De Jager, boast Daniil Medvedev, Rohan Bopanna, Magda Linette and Sahaja Yamalapalli. Robert Lindstedt leads the VB Realty Hawks, featuring Denis Shapovalov, Yuki Bhambri, Elina Svitolina and Maaya Revathi. The Aussie Mavericks Kites, coached by Julian Knowle, bring the firepower of Nick Kyrgios, Dhakshineshwar Suresh, Marta Kostyuk and Ankita Raina. The AOS Eagles, guided by Mark Gellard, include Gael Monfils, Sumit Nagal, Paula Badosa and Shrivalli Bhamidipaty.

Team owners expressed optimism and confidence in their lineups, highlighting the blend of international calibre, Indian depth and strategic versatility that each squad brings.

**WTL 2025 Teams & Owners**
- **Game Changers Falcons:** Amandeep Singh
- **VB Realty Hawks:** Vashu Bhagnani
- **Aussie Mavericks Kites:** Dr. Umed Shekhawat, Amit Sahni, Kewal Kalra
- **AOS Eagles:** Satender Pal Chhabra

**Team Lineups (Coach – Players)**
- **Falcons (JL De Jager):** Medvedev, Bopanna, Linette, Yamalapalli
- **Hawks (Lindstedt):** Shapovalov, Bhambri, Svitolina, Revathi
- **Kites (Knowle):** Kyrgios, Suresh, Kostyuk, Raina
- **Eagles (Gellard):** Monfils, Nagal, Badosa, Bhamidipaty

**Event Details**
- **Venue:** SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, Bengaluru
- **Dates:** December 17–20, 2025
- **Format:** 4 Teams | 16 Players | 1 Champion

# RONALDO'S bicycle kick caps Al-Nassr's dominant win

**RIYADH**

Cristiano Ronaldo delivered yet another reminder of his timeless brilliance, scoring a spectacular bicycle-kick goal as Al-Nassr defeated Al Khaleej 4-1 in the Saudi Pro League. The 40-year-old Portuguese icon connected acrobatically with a cross from the right wing, sending a fierce volley past the goalkeeper to seal a commanding victory for his side.

The strike — greeted by a roaring crowd and instant viral clips online — showcased Ronaldo's enduring athleticism and impeccable timing, even as he continues to play at the highest level deep into his career. His finish capped an all-round dominant performance from Al-Nassr, who maintained control of the match from start to finish.

Ronaldo returned to club action after an eventful international break with Portugal, where he was sent off in a fiery encounter against Ireland but still celebrated the nation's successful qualification for the 2026 World Cup. Should he feature in the tournament, it would mark a record-setting sixth World Cup appearance — a milestone unmatched in the history of men's football.

For Al-Nassr, the victory further solidified their title ambitions, with Ronaldo continuing to be central to their attacking power.

His latest goal adds to a growing list of highlight-reel moments in Saudi Arabia, where he has repeatedly demonstrated his commitment to fitness, performance and leadership.

Despite the intensity of the season and challenges at the international level, Ronaldo's display underscored why he remains one of football's most influential figures. His ability to rise to big moments — even at 40 — continues to inspire teammates, thrill supporters and reaffirm his place in the global spotlight as Al-Nassr push for silverware in the Saudi Pro League.

# Shastri slams India's batting order after Guwahati collapse

**GUWAHATI**

Former India head coach Ravi Shastri tore into the team's muddled selection and erratic batting order after another dramatic collapse on Day 3 of the second Test against South Africa at the Barsapara Cricket Stadium. India began the day on 9/0, with KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal adopting a cautious approach against a ball that was moving early.

Their watchful start seemed justified, but once the surface eased out, India inexplicably fell apart.

From a steady 65/0, India crumbled to 122/7, losing seven wickets for just 57 runs. Most dismissals came from poor shot selection rather than unplayable deliveries, prompting Shastri to question the team's approach and decision-making. "It makes no sense," he said during commentary. "I don't understand the thought process.

When they look back at this series, some of the selections will baffle them. The pitch here isn't a 150-for-7 kind of surface."

# Pranjali Dhumal clinches 25m pistol gold, seals third medal at Deaflympics

**TOKYO**

India's Pranjali Prashant Dhumal capped a remarkable run at the Deaflympics by winning gold in the women's 25m pistol event on Monday, securing her third medal of the competition and reinforcing her position as one of India's brightest shooting talents. The win followed her earlier successes — a gold in the mixed pistol event with Abhinav Deshwal and a silver in the women's air pistol — marking a standout performance across multiple disciplines.

Dhumal entered the final as the top qualifier after setting a new qualification world record and Deaflympic record with an impressive score of 573 out of 600. She carried that momentum into the medal round, displaying composure and precision under pressure to clinch the top podium spot.

India's Pranjali Dhumal captures 25m pistol gold to continue her stellar Deaflympics campaign

Ukraine's Mosina Halyna secured the silver, while Korea's Jeon Jiwon claimed the bronze.

India narrowly missed another podium finish in the same event as Anuya Prasad, who had earlier won gold in the women's air pistol, finished fourth after a competitive outing. Prasad's performance highlighted the depth of India's women's shooting contingent at these Games.

The medal haul continues India's strong showing in shooting at the Deaflympics. On Sunday, Abhinav Deshwal secured the nation's 15th shooting medal by winning gold in the 25m pistol event with a record-setting qualification score, further boosting India's tally.

For Dhumal, the latest gold not only adds to her growing list of achievements but also cements her status as one of the most successful Indian athletes at the ongoing Games. Her consistency, technical skill, and ability to perform at critical moments have made her a key contributor to India's medal surge and an athlete to watch in future international competitions.

**MLS PLAYOFFS MIAMI**

# *Messi masterclass propels Miami into first Eastern Conference final*

**CINCINNATI**

Lionel Messi delivered one of the most dominant performances of his MLS career, scoring once and assisting three times as Inter Miami swept past FC Cincinnati 4-0 to reach the club's first-ever Eastern Conference final. Tadeo Allende added a brace and Mateo Silvetti scored his first goal for Miami in a statement victory that set up a home clash against New York City FC on Saturday, with a place in the MLS Cup final on December 6 at stake.

Messi's four-goal contribution pushed him to an MLS playoff record 12 goal involvements—six goals and six assists—underscoring his influence on Miami's postseason surge. His breakthrough came in the 19th minute, heading in a short cross from Silvetti for his 11th goal in seven matches. Although he missed a one-on-one chance minutes later, his orchestration of Miami's attack remained relentless throughout.

Cincinnati, last year's Supporters' Shield winners and owners of MLS's second-best record this season, struggled to contain Miami's tempo and repeatedly turned the ball over in dangerous zones. Their best opportunity arrived in the first half when Ender Echenique's header set up Evander, who fired over the bar.

Silvetti doubled Miami's lead early in the second half with a composed finish past Roman Celentano, marking a memorable moment after stepping in for the suspended Luis Suárez. "It's an honor to score my first goal in this jersey," Silvetti said through a translator. "I'm happy to help the team."

Messi then split Cincinnati's defense with a trademark threaded pass to Allende in the 62nd minute for Miami's third. Allende struck again in the 74th minute to complete the rout.

Cincinnati coach Pat Noonan acknowledged Miami's superiority. "They were better tonight. It's disappointing, and we have to own it," he said.

With Messi firing and Miami's attack clicking, the club moves one win away from its first MLS Cup appearance.

# 'He-Man' leaves India grieving...

Dharmendra, widely known as Bollywood's 'He-Man', was one of India's most loved actors. He was born on December 8, 1935 in Nasrali of Punjab and grew up in a simple Jat Sikh family. He studied in local schools and completed Class 12 before moving forward in life with a strong passion for cinema. His love for movies helped him dream of a career in acting.

Dharmendra's entry into films began with his debut in 1960 in the movie Dill Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere.

Although the film gave him a start, his real rise to fame happened in 1966 with 'Phool Aur Patthar'. His tall personality, charming looks, and brilliant acting soon made him a favourite among audiences. He became popular not only as a romantic hero, but also as an action star, creating a special place in Indian cinema.

Dharmendra married Prakash Kaur in 1954, even before joining films. They had four children together. His sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol followed his path and became top actors in Bollywood. His daughters Vijeta and Ajeeta also remained closely connected to the family. Later, he married 'Dream Girl' Hema Malini.

Over his long career, Dharmendra received several major honours.

He was a recipient of Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award (1997) and the Padma Bhushan (2012) for his contribution to films. His achievements inspired young actors across the country.

From struggling days to fame, Dharmendra built a wealth worth over ₹450 crore, with the success and respect he achieved through dedication and love for cinema.

## TRIBUTES POUR IN

President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and people across the country are mourning the death of legendary Bollywood actor Dharmendra.

His long career, filled with memorable performances, made him one of India's most loved actors. President Murmu expressed her sadness on X, calling Dharmendra's death a great loss to Indian cinema. She said his legacy will continue to inspire young artists for many years.

Prime Minister Modi also shared his heartfelt message, saying Dharmendra's passing marks the end of an era. He praised the actor's charm, talent and ability to win millions of hearts through different roles.

The Prime Minister also remembered his humble and warm nature, which made him respected by everyone. Union Minister Nitin Gadkari offered his condolences too. He recalled the actor's kindness and said Dharmendra always helped others.

Gadkari shared that his relationship with Dharmendra's family was warm, especially with his sons and Hema Malini. He described Dharmendra as a very good human being whose absence creates a huge void.

## A family man whose greatest frame was always at home!

Dharmendra one of India's most loved actors. More than his films, people admired him for being a devoted family man, a caring father, a loving husband and a proud grandfather.

He shared a long and strong bond with his wife and famous co-star Hema Malini. Their relationship stood firm through many challenges. On one of his birthdays, Hema Malini shared a loving message for him, thanking him for his support and wishing him good health and happiness. Dharmendra was very close to his sons Sunny Deol and Bobby Deol. He often shared pictures with his children, praising their love and care. He once wrote that Sunny looked after him so well that he felt like a child around him. His sons too expressed their deep love for their father through sweet posts and memories. He was equally loving toward his daughters Esha and Ahana, always blessing them and their families. On his birthday, Esha thanked him for guiding her and making her strong. Dharmendra also adored his grandchildren, especially Rajveer and Karan, who have started their careers in films. He encouraged them to learn, grow and stay humble. His family remembers him as their biggest strength. His legacy will continue to shine through them forever.

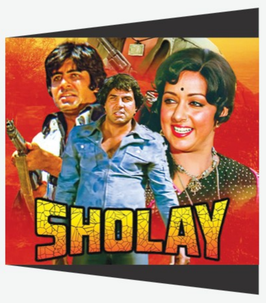
## *6 children, Rs 335-crore empire, and the legacy he built*

Veteran actor Dharmendra, who died at 89, leaves behind a towering cinematic legacy and one of Bollywood's most respected multigenerational families. Born in Nasrali village in Punjab to schoolteacher Kewal Krishan Singh Deol and Satwant Kaur, he married Prakash Kaur in 1954, before beginning his film career. They had four children—Sunny, Bobby, Vijayta, and Ajeeta. Sunny Deol, the eldest, is a prominent actor, filmmaker, and politician. He is married to Pooja Deol, and they have two sons: Karan, an actor married to Drisha Acharya, and Rajveer, who debuted in Dono. Bobby Deol, also a well-known actor and producer, is married to interior designer Tanya Ahuja; their sons are Aryaman and Dharam. Dharmendra's daughters from his first marriage kept a low profile. Vijayta is married to Vivek Gill, with two children, Prerna and Sahil. Ajeeta lives in California with her husband, Dr. Kiran Chaudhri, and their daughters, Dr. Nikita Mina and Dr. Prianka Chaudhri.

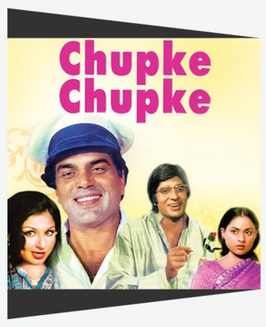
In 1980, Dharmendra married actress Hema Malini, his co-star in several hits including Seeta Aur Geeta and Sholay. They had two daughters: Esha, mother to Radhya and Miraya, and Ahana, married to Vaibhav Vohra, with twins Astraia and Adea, and a son, Darien.

## 10 timeless classics that shine through a career of over 300 movies

### 1. SHOLAY




The 1975 classic just celebrated its golden jubilee and it is also one of the most important films in Dharmendra and co-star Amitabh Bachchan's filmographies. Dharmendra's playful, emotional and heart on his sleeves Veeru was the perfect foil to Bachchan's Jai, who would lower his guards only around his friend. Veeru was the fighter and Jai his perfect wingman. The Ramesh Sippy-directed film is one of the best examples of bromance in Hindi cinema. Dharmendra's romance with Hema Malini and his drunk scenes are also iconic as is the dialogue Basanti! inn kutton ke saamne mat naachna.




### 2. CHUPKE CHUPKE

In 1975, Dharmendra showed his versatility with Sholay and Chupke Chupke, two very different films.

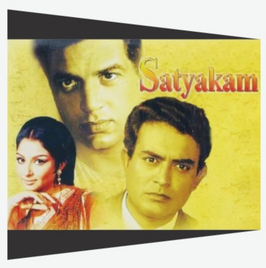
In Chupke Chupke, he played botany professor Parimal Tripathi, who falls in love with Sharmila Tagore's Sulekha. She is in awe of her intellectual brother-in-law Raghavendra.

Parimal disguises himself as Hindi loving Pyare Mohan and gets employed as a driver at Raghvendra's place and this leads to all kinds of funny situations. It is one of Dharmendra's most endearing performances. Bachchan teamed up with Dharmendra again in the film that also featured Om Prakash and Jaya Bhaduri.

### 3. ANUPAMA

In this 1966 film, Mukherjee teamed up with Dharmendra for the first time. The actor played a sensitive young man named Ashok, a writer and teacher who helps Sharmila Tagore's Uma come out of her shell as an introverted person who longs for her father's approval. She falls for Ashok but does not want to go against her father's wishes who seems to hate him.

Mukherjee, who once called Dharmendra his favourite actor, repeated him many films including Majhli Didi, Guddu and Chaitali.




### 4. SATYAKAM

The 1969 drama film by Hrishikesh Mukherjee was based on the Bengali novel of the same name by Narayan Sanyal.

It featured Dharmendra once again opposite Sharmila Tagore in what is considered one of his finest roles in Indian cinema.

The movie, which followed the actor's Satyapriya 'Sath' Acharya, was deeply philosophical and explored integrity and idealism. It won the National Film Award For Best Feature Film in Hindi that year.

### 5. SEETA AUR GEETA

This 1972 Indian Hindi-language comedy drama film by the Sholay team about two separated identical twins Seeta and Geeta (Hema Malini) who meet years later and swap places.

Dharmendra plays the role of Raka, who is Seeta's love interest. This film solidified the couple as a favourite pair with fans. Both Dharmendra and Hema Malini starred in more than two dozen movies including Tum Haseen Main Jawan, Dreamgirl, Charas, Aazad, Raja Rani and Tum Haseen Main Jawan.

### 6. YAADON KI BARAT

The 1973 masala film by Nasir Hussain followed three brothers who are separated after their parents are murdered by a gangster. It became a trendsetter for the "lost brother" trope.

Dharmendra plays the elder brother in the movie, who reunites with his two other lost siblings years later through a song that his parents used to sing. The brothers then extract their revenge from the man who killed their parents. The film was a commercial hit and is still remembered for its title song.

### 7. PRATIGYA

The 1975 Indian Hindi-language action comedy film produced by Dharmendra and B. S. Deol starred Dharmendra, Hema Malini, Ajit, Johnny Walker, Jagdeep, Mukri, Mehar Mittal and Keshto Mukherjee. The story revolves around Dharmendra's Ajit who is out to avenge his parents' brutal murder by dreaded dacoit Bharat Thakur.

Along with its action sequences, the film is remembered for its slap-stick comedy. The film has a memorable song Main Jat Yamla Pagla Deewana.

### 8. DHARAM VEER

In this 1977 film, Dharmendra and Jeetendra play two lost twins who, unaware about their relationship, become best friends. Dharmendra falls for a princess while Jeetendra loves a gypsy girl.

They eventually realise that they are brothers and their uncle plotted them to be killed to usurp the kingdom. The film featured the popular song Saat Ajoobe iss duniya mein and was a hit.

### 9. YAMLA PAGLA DEEWANA/APNE

From his own production house Vijayta Films, the two films feature the Deol family with Dharmendra and sons Sunny and Bobby Deol. While the 2007 film Apne brought the family together for an emotional saga. Yamla Pagla Deewana in 2011 featured the family on a hilarious roller coaster ride. The film's title comes from the hit track that featured in Pratiggya. Both the films were commercial hits and explored the real life bond that Dharmendra shared with his sons on celluloid. Yamla Pagla Deewana was followed by a sequel, Yamla Pagla Deewana 2 in 2013.

### 10. ROCKY AUR RANI KII PREM KAHAANI

In the 2023 Karan Johar National award-winning film, Dharmendra portrayed the family's Alzheimer's-stricken grandfather who shares tender moments with his grandson Rocky (Ranveer Singh). His lost love for Rani's grandmother Jamini (Shabana Azmi) forms the foundation for Rocky and Rani's relationship. In the film, Dharmendra is seen romancing Azmi to classic Hindi melodies, and the two even share a kiss.

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